FRIDAY
October 27, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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SURROGACY ACT

SC rules in favour of using donor gametes

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Israeli troops launch ground raid into Gaza

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GUNMAN AT LARGE

Mass shooting in U.S.'s Maine kills at least 18

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PARLEY

Is India ready to host the Olympics?

It is a huge honour that comes with challenges

OPINION » PAGE 13

KUMARA EXCELS

Sri Lanka crushes England, stays alive

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Tussle between HDK and DKS escalates

BENGALURU
The war of words between Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy over renaming Ramanagara district as "Bengaluru South" further escalated on Thursday.
» PAGE 8

Govt. mulls over voluntary disclosure policy

BENGALURU
The State government is contemplating a voluntary disclosure policy under which those illegally owning wildlife artefacts will be given an opportunity to surrender the materials. » PAGE 4

METROPLUS » 4 PAGES

Eight former Navy officers get death penalty in Qatar

India says it is 'deeply shocked', exploring legal options; adds it will take up the matter with Qatari authorities; the Indian nationals employed in Doha were accused of breaching sensitive secrets

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Eight former Indian Navy personnel, who had been employed by a company in Doha, were handed the death penalty by a local court in Doha on Thursday in an alleged case of espionage. The Indian government expressed shock at the verdict, and said all legal options were being explored.

The eight men – Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Saurabh Vashisht, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, Commander Amit Nagpal and Sailor Ragesh – have been in the custody of Qatari authorities since August 2022. The Court of First Instance of Qatar passed the judgment against them, according to a statement by India's Ministry of External Affairs.

"We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgment. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options. We attach high importance to this case, and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance," the MEA statement said, adding that India would take up the matter with the Qatari authorities.

On death row

The events that led to the Qatari court's verdict on Thursday

August 30, 2022: Eight former Indian Navy personnel arrested by Qatari authorities, believed to be on charges of espionage

March 2023: Trial begins in the case

October 1: Indian Ambassador to Qatar meets the eight men in prison

October 26: Qatari court pronounces death sentence to all of them

What are India's options now?

- Pursue legal appeals in the case
- Resolve case diplomatically
- Political intervention at the Prime Minister's level to request a pardon
- Build an international campaign to appeal for clemency

Breaching secrets

The Indian nationals were employed by Dahra Global Technologies and Consultant Services in Doha, and were allegedly accused of breaching sensitive secrets. They were reportedly involved in training various security-related service providers of the State of Qatar.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

13 die as SUV rams parked tanker near Chickballapur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thirteen persons, including two children, died when an SUV rammed a parked tanker on the outskirts of Chickballapur, near Bengaluru, on Thursday morning.

Most of the deceased were heading towards Bengaluru from Andhra Pradesh when the driver failed to notice the parked tanker and crashed into it from behind. All the occupants in the SUV died.

Most of the dead hailed from Gorantla and were working in and around Bengaluru. However, some also boarded the vehicle on the way. Those who were travelling in the ill-fated vehicle had gone to their hometown for Dasara and were returning to the city for work.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 2

ED searches against Rajasthan Congress leaders kick up row

Congress supporters stage a protest against the ED searches on the premises of party leaders, in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) searches on the premises of two Rajasthan Congress leaders as part of a money laundering probe, and a summons issued to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot, led to a political slugfest in the poll-bound State on Thursday. Mr. Gehlot accused the Union government of using the ED like "swarms of locusts".

The ED conducted searches at State Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra's residences in Jaipur and Sikar, and MLA Om Prakash Hudla's hotel in Mahuwa of Dausa district, where he has been fielded as the party candidate for the upcoming poll. The raids were part of the ED's investigation into the case of question paper leak in the senior teacher grade II competitive examination of 2022.

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SCAN FOR MORE

When I get on the run, I know I'm difficult to bowl to: Maxwell

I was literally hitting them flat through the gap or picking my spots pretty clearly where I wanted to go and it was only the back end where I tried to just pump everything, reveals the Australian after smashing the fastest hundred in World Cup history

Big show: Maxwell was in such a destructive mood that the white ball kept travelling to the fence or disappearing into the stands quite often. R.V. MOORTHY

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW DELHI

Even as he unleashed those extraordinary shots, one after another, at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday, Glenn Maxwell was keeping tabs on the balls he had been facing.

After slamming the fastest World Cup hundred, against the Netherlands, the Australian superstar said he was aware of the records. "I'm very aware of balls faced," he said after his stunning onslaught, for which all he got was the last 10 overs. "I love the fastest fifty, fastest hundred records."

He feels those records are cool. "Sometimes to the detriment of myself, I have always probably pushed the boundaries a bit too much," he said. "I think against Afghanistan in 2015, I was 88 off (38) and I was like I am getting into the next two balls I hit one straight to cover and butchered it. I think I got my fastest hundred in the next game."

It is not just the bowlers that know he is one of the most difficult batters to bowl to. "When I get on the run, I know I'm difficult to bowl to," Maxwell said. "It's just about getting past the first ball. I have been in those positions before I could make fast hundreds."

He, however, said he hadn't been feeling well. "I was sitting in the changing room and I didn't really want to bat, which is a bit different than last game where I was way too eager to get out there," he said. "I was a little bit more chilled when I got out there. I didn't have many high hopes, I think. But yeah, I've been pretty cooked the last couple of days. It coincided with the sleepless night the previous night with the family."

He may not have imagined that he would make sleep difficult, after the match, for the Netherlands bowlers, who were slaughtered mercilessly by him. He had begun slowly, relatively speaking, that is. It took him 27 balls for his first fifty, but the second came off just 13.

"It's a bit weird that I had to calm myself down for the first 20 odd balls and rebuild," Maxwell said. "I think the circumstances of, I suppose, the timing of the wickets probably changed the way I would have gone about it if it was just me and David Warner at the back end. I felt like I was just super selective. Even with the boundaries I was hitting, until I got to about 50 or 60, I was literally hitting them flat through the gap or picking my spots pretty clearly where I wanted to go and it was only the back end where I tried to just pump everything."

He said he wasn't worried about what people had been saying about his ODI form. "I think I've made runs in India during the IPL pretty regularly over the last couple of years, so I'm not too worried about people saying that I haven't made runs in ODI cricket because it doesn't really matter, especially given my role in one-day cricket," he said. "It's so similar to T20, so I just draw on those experiences, knowing that if I do get it right on the day, hopefully my team will be winning. Having had a bit of success this year in India during the IPL, I've come to India during this World Cup full of confidence and even started well in the practice games with a good 70 against Pakistan."

> It's just about getting past the first ball. I have been in those positions before I could make fast hundreds

Maxwell wasn't too keen about the light show. "Well, I had something like that light show similar happen at Perth during a Big Bash game and I just felt like it gave me shocking headaches and it takes me a while for my eyes to readjust and I just think it's the dumbest idea for cricketers," he said.

"When you've got this thing coming at you quickly and your eyes take so long to adjust and I think we just lost a wicket and the Perth Stadium lights went nuts and I was at the other end and it took me ages to get my eyes to go again and I felt like I had a headache. So I just try to cover up as much as I possibly can and ignore it. But it's a horrible idea. It is great for the fans, horrible for the players."

Eric Simons. ANI

Bavuma leans on Simons to ace Chepauk challenge

S. Dipak Ragav

Even as England is going through a harrowing World Cup campaign, South Africa has found great success by taking a page out of the defending champion's playbook of playing an aggressive brand of cricket. The Proteas batters have thrown caution to the wind and out-batted the opposition by amassing humongous totals.

While it has been breathtaking to watch South Africa, the team's high scores have come on batting-friendly pitches at Delhi, Lucknow and in the last two encounters at Mumbai.

On Friday, the Proteas will face a first big challenge to their batting philosophy when they take on Pakistan at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, where the pitch is on the slower side and the venue is not known for high totals.

However, skipper Temba Bavuma said the team will look to back its strengths and continue to do what has worked for it so far despite the conditions.

"What we have done well is that there is that process within our batting of assessing the conditions, looking at what we need from a skill and options point of view to be successful, and that's what we've done well," said Bavuma.

"So, I think the process in itself, batting here in Chennai, will not change. We will assess the wicket and, come up with options for how we can succeed. And if the opportunity is there for us to score 350, we will do so. If not, we will make sure we play what's happening in front of us as best as possible," he added.

Fortunately for South Africa, they can rely on someone with local knowledge of the conditions in its bowling coach, Eric Simons, who did the same job for India when it won the World Cup in 2011 and has been a bowling consultant with Chennai Super Kings since 2018.

"Definitely, from a bowling point of view, there are a lot of nuggets of gold that are coming from Eric, his experience of obviously having coached in this part of the world. Like I said, we haven't seen the wicket, but he'll probably be the person who will be leading that conversation there. But yeah, he's been invaluable from that point of view," said Bavuma on the value Simons brings to the table.

"I think also from the intangibles, the pressure and expectation from that point of view, if you ask a lot of the guys, he's almost played a grandpa role within the team, finding ways to almost regulate our emotions. So, it's been refreshing from that point of view," added the South African skipper.

GAME TIME

Quiz yourself on trivia and facts across various sports and games from around the world

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In what way is the England-India third Test played at Birmingham between July 13 and 17 unique as far as the visitors' bowling attack is concerned?

QUESTION 2
Apart from Manchester United, which two clubs were crowned the Premier League champions in the last decade of the 20th Century?

QUESTION 3
Which event is considered the world's largest annual women's international team sports competition in terms of the number of nations that compete?

QUESTION 4
Who was the first athlete to win gold medals in the same event in four consecutive Summer Olympics? And name the event.

QUESTION 5
The Johan Cruyff Arena is the home ground of which famous European football club?

QUESTION 6
Earlier this year, who became the first Indian across the men's and women's game to take 100 T20I wickets?

QUESTION 7
Apart from shot put and long jump, which are the other two field events in heptathlon?

QUESTION 8
What is the duration of a 3x3 basketball game and in which two ways can a team win a game?

QUESTION 9
Apart from India and Pakistan, which is the only other nation to win the men's Asian Champions Trophy in hockey?

QUESTION 10
Who did Muhammad Ali defeat to win the famous 'Thrilla in Manila' bout in the Asian capital in 1975?

Question 11: Identify this champion who was the first woman chess player to be honoured with the Arjuna Award. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

THE ANSWERS

1.The only Test where the famed 'spin quartet' played, 2. Blackburn Rovers and Arsenal, 3. Billie Jean Cup (formerly fed Cup), 4. Al Oerter (USA) in discus, 5. AFC Ajax, 6. Deepti Sharma, 7. High jump and javelin, 8. 10 minutes and the winner is determined by most points after 10 minutes or if a team reaches 21 points, 9. South Korea, 10. Joe Frazier III, 11. Rohini Khadilkar

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INBRIEF

Walk-in interview on Oct. 30

The University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) will hold a walk-in-Interview on October 30 for the post of guest faculty to teach Constitution of India Law subject for B. Tech students under the AICTE-NEP scheme for the academic year 2023-24.

The interview will be held in the Board Room, at UVCE campus, K.R. Circle, at 3 p.m.

Those interested and having a minimum qualification of degree in law may attend the interview with their detailed resume and academic records, the UVCE said in a press release.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated October 27, we have a story on Mukund Rao, fondly called the 'Forest Man of Karnataka', who is determined to bring back at least parts of forests around Bengaluru and in various other districts in the State.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 27, Friday), the following articles are available:

- The T.N. experience on caste survey **bit.ly/TNcastesurvey**
- What does the SC's abortion verdict mean for reproductive justice? **bit.ly/reproductivejusticesc**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Poor visibility due to dense mist led to accident, say police

Driver of the SUV involved In the accident was illegally running a ferry service and the vehicle was overloaded

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Low visibility due to dense morning mist in the area probably led to the accident on the outskirts of Chickballapur in which 13 people died, the police said on Thursday.

The accident occurred at 7.10 a.m. when the SUV, which was overloaded, rammed into a tanker parked near a traffic police station. The tanker driver had parked the vehicle by the roadside and had gone to attend to nature's call. The morning mist was dense, leading to very low visibility. The SUV driver probably did not see the tanker, the police said. Moreover, the tanker driver, Palani, had not switched on the parking lights. The police have arrested the tanker driver, booking him under Section 304A for causing death due to negligence.

The SUV driver, Narasimhappa, 40, hailing from Gorantla in Andhra Pradesh, was illegally running a ferry service in a white-board vehicle and had overloaded the vehicle. While the vehicle could carry eight persons, 13 persons were travelling in it and all of them were killed in the accident.

The police had a Herculean task identifying the deceased, as the bodies were beyond recognition.

The deceased have been identified as Aruna, 32, a resident of Doddaballapur, and her six-year-old son Hritvik; Narasimhamurthy, 37, who hailed from Bagepalli in Chickballapur district and was working in a salon at Kaval Byrasandra here; Perimili Pawan Kumar, 32, from Gorantla; Venkata Subbamma, a resident of Kamakshipalya; Shantamma, 37, a garment factory employee at Hongasandra who hailed from Puttaparthi; Rajavardhana, 15; Venkataramana, 51, a weaver at Kamakshipalya hailing from Nawabakota, Andhra Pradesh; Narayanappa, 50, a labourer working at Yelahanka and hailing from Malkavaara Palli in Andhra Pradesh; Bellala Venkatadri, 32, a wall painter residing at Bommasandra and a native of Gorantla, and his wife Lakshmi, 20, a garment factory worker; Ganesha, 17-year-old student from Gorantla; and the driver Narasimhappa.

Fatal journey: The vehicle which crashed into a parked tanker at Chickballapur on Thursday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The police had a Herculean task identifying the deceased, as the bodies were beyond recognition

Relatives of the deceased who came to claim the bodies were inconsolable. One of them said that Narasimhamurthy had gone to drop his wife and children to his native place for the festival and was returning to work. His relative who had come to drop him suggested that he go by a bus, but Narasimhamurthy was in a hurry, so he took the private cab which was already crowded, only to end up dead.

Compensation

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced ₹2 lakh compensation to the families of each of the deceased.

Water supply to be hit in several areas in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be disruption in water supply on Friday in several areas in the city.

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) in a release on Thursday said that in view of valve repair work undertaken near Chandra Layout reservoir and shutdown in two pumps of Cauvery 4th stage 1st phase for nearly six hours, there will be disruption in water supply on Friday in the following areas: Mahalakshmi Layout, Geleyara Balaga, Muneshwara Block, West of Chord Road, Saraswathipuram, Rajajingar 1st to 6th Blocks, Jooganahalli, Chamundinagar slum, Prakash Nagar, Rajajingar 2nd Stage, Kamalanagar, Kurubarahalli, Kirloskar Colony, LIC Colony, Kamakshipalya, Housing Board, Karekallu, KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, 3rd block, 3rd stage, Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Kottigepalya, Nagarabhavi, part of Papareddypalya, Jalahalli, Peenya Industrial Area, and surrounding areas of these localities.

Wife of ex-MLA booked for using false caste certificate to get promotion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Suja K. Sridhara allegedly gave a false caste certificate to get promoted as assistant professor at the Government Ayurveda Medical College

Officials of the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement have filed a complaint against an assistant professor of an ayurveda college for using a false caste certificate to get promoted to the post.

Based on a complaint filed by Kumaraswamy T.R., police inspector, Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement, the Nelamangala town police have registered an FIR against Suja K. Sridhara, wife of the former MLA for Nelamangala K. Srinivasamurthy, along with the tahsildar, the revenue inspector, and the village accountant of Nelamangala for helping her get the false caste certificate.

Suja allegedly submitted a false caste certificate to get promoted as an assistant professor at the Government Ayurveda Medical College in Bengaluru. Suja, who is from Ezhavas (Billava-idiga) caste in Kerala, allegedly obtained a false Scheduled Caste (SC) certificate from the Nelamangala tahsildar, according to the complaint.

Complaint

The cheating came to light when lecturer Shakunthala, who missed the assistant professor job promotion because of the accused Suja, approached the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement and filed a complaint.

Trapped

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The Lokayukta police caught Joint Commissioner of Commercial Tax, Dakshayani Choushetty while she was accepting bribe from a manager of a private firm for settling a claim for GST reimbursement in Belagavi on Thursday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that my client, intend to purchase the **Site No.340,** measuring East to West 40 ft & North to South 60 ft, in Sy No. 19/3 of **BHEL 2nd Stage Extension, Pattanagere Village, Kengeri Hobli, BST,** which bounded on the **East by: Site No.339, West by: Site No.341, North by: Site No.330, South by: Road,** from its owner **Sri.M.G.Nagaraja, S/o. M.G.Ganganna.** If any person entity has anyclaim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the said property or any part, thereof, such a person submit his/her claim/ objectionwith documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing **within (07) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there is no claims objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the said site from the owner.

K.V. PREMA THULASIKRISHNA BA, LLB
Advocate Reg No: 943/2000
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Corrigendum-1 to E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/63/2023 Dated:24-08-2023

Name of work	Approx. Value
Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Between Chainage 171.640 & Chainage 142.920 (28.720KM) including Electrical and Signal & Telecommunication works between BHARAMASAGARA (incl) and CHITRADURGA (excl.) Stations in Tumkur-Chitradurga Davangere New Line Project. **(Tender Ref: TK-DVG-EPC-02)**	Rs. 3,80,13,75,567/-

Date of Closing	
Existing	Revised
22-11-2023 (15:00 Hrs)	30-01-2024 (15:00 Hrs)

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No. SPO/EO/Tender-eproc. 05 / 2023-24 Date : 17.10.2023

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad is inviting tender for procurement of Lab/Scientific Equipments, Laptops and other Electronic Equipments etc., through e-procurement portal. The registered authorized suppliers are requested to visit the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **(Goods Tender Category)** for participation in the tender. For more details please contact 0836-2214231 during office hours.

SHEDULE OF EVENTS

Last date and time for tender queries / clarification	:	02.11.2023 (Thursday) till 4.00 PM
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting (In the Office of E.O.)	:	03.11.2023 (Friday) at 11.30 AM
Last date & time for receipt of Tender	:	15.11.2023 (Wednesday) till 4.00 PM
Technical Bid Opening (Sl. No. 3, 4 & 5)	:	16.11.2023 (Thursday) at 4.05 PM
Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid (Sl.No.1, 2 & 6)	:	16.11.2023 (Thursday) at 4.10 PM
Date & Time for opening of Financial Bid (Sl.No.3, 4 & 5)	:	20.11.2023 (Monday) at 4.00 PM

Tenderers need to register with e-procurement portal of Govt. of Karnataka B'lore, For details of registration please contact ph. No: 080-46010000. Bidders are requested to get updated with the corrigendum/addendum (if any) issued online at the following link in the entire tender process. http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER UAS, Dharwad

DIPR/Dwd/ 421/2023-24/DeshpandePublicity

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Phone / Fax : 08226-222027 Email : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)
(One And Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2- Financial Bid)
Tender Notification No. 05/2023-24 Dated : 20.10.2023

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-2 & KW-3,** form Total no of works is 2**, H/A : 8443 DC Work** Minimum estimated cost Rs. 30.00 lakhs **and** Maximum estimated cost is Rs. 88.00 lakhs, Further Changes in this Notification will be Published in E-Procurement Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 17.10.2023 to 30.10.2023 upto 16.00 Hrs
2	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	31.10.2023 after 16.30 Hrs.
3	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	02.11.2023 after 16.00 Hrs.

More Information can be had from the Web site : **www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar

DIPR : CHANAGAR:192:2023-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sri. ASHUTOSH BHARGAVA, S/o. Rakesh Bhargava and his wife Smt. AKANSHA DIXIT, entered into an agreement of sale dated 18-10-2003 in respect of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner, M/s. AANVI INFRASTRUCTURE, a Partnership Firm having office at 81, 1st Floor, Gururaghavendra Layout, 3rd Main, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078, Rep. by its Partner Sri. M. Dinakar.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

BDA Approved Residential Flat No. FF-402, measuring 1191 Sq. Ft. in 4th Floor of "AANVI ALPS" APARTMENT together with one covered car parking slot, along with 332 SFT. in the converted land bearing Sy. No. 59/1 of Hadosiddapura Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on:
East by : Open to Sky,
West by : Corridor & Flat No.411,
North by : Corridor & Flat No.411,
South by : Open to Sky.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY,
ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR,
Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 26-10-2023

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CENTRAL WORKSHOPS, GOLDEN ROCK, SOUTHERN RAILWAY, TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI - 620 004 - EXTRA DIVISION

The Chief Workshop Manager, Central Workshops, Golden Rock, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli - 620 004 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE Tenders for the following work as per tender notice given below with complete details in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

1	Name of the work & Quantity	Super structure integration of 160 BVCM wagons				
	E-Tender No.	Approximate Value of Work	Cost of Tender Forms	Bid Security Amount	Period of Contract	Tender Closing Date & Time
	No. CW/WP/8150-WC/Superstructure/BVCM/160/OT dated 20.10.2023	**₹ 47,53,520/- inclusive of GST @18%**	**₹ 3,000/-**	**₹ 95,100/-**	**24 Months**	**11.11.2023 @ 12:00 hours**
2	Name of the work & Quantity	Surface preparation, Grinding, Cleaning, Painting and Marking of 320 BVCM wagons				
	E-Tender No.	Approximate Value of Work	Cost of Tender Forms	Bid Security Amount	Period of Contract	Tender Closing Date & Time
	No. CW/WP/8150-WC/Painting/BVCM/320/OT dated 20.10.2023	**₹ 34,35,200/- inclusive of GST @18%**	**₹ 3,000/-**	**₹ 68,700/-**	**24 Months**	**11.11.2023 @ 12:00 hours**
3	Name of the work & Quantity	PRODUCTION MIX#2 - Manufacture of side walls, end walls, flap doors and floor plate fitment of 250 BOXNHL wagon sets by the contractor with their own CRF sections and consumables using contractor's welding plants etc. with plates supplied by Railway and integrate with under frame supplied by Railway with integrating accessories at GOC premises.				
	E-Tender No.	Approximate Value of Work	Cost of Tender Forms	Bid Security Amount	Period of Contract	Tender Closing Date & Time
	No. CW/WP/8150-WC/BOXNHL/OS-2/250 dated 20.10.2023	**₹ 13,61,63,062.50/- inclusive of GST @18%**	**₹ 10,000/-**	**₹ 8,30,800**	**6 Months**	**11.11.2023 @12:00 hours**

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGCO25521)
No.:SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/AEE-1/F-114/23-24/Cys-46 Date: 26.10.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement mode only)

E-Tenders are invited in the prescribed form from Reputed **Electrical Contractor possessing Super Grade Electrical Contractor** License for the following works in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere **on Partial Turnkey basis.**

1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/23-24/80 Call-3 dated: 25.09.2023 for **Providing Two No of PCVCB 11 KV Breakers at 66/11KV MUSS ATTIGERE in TL & SS Division Davanagere for bifurcation of over loaded Feeders.**

2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/23-24 / 62 Call-3 dated: 26.09.2023 for **Providing Four No of additional 11KV MCVCB (1 IC + 4 feeder) for bifurcation of 11Kv feeders in 66/11KV MUSS Anagodu ,in TL & SS Division Davanagere.**

3) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/23-24/97 Call-2 dated: 26.09.2023 for **Providing Additional 01 No of 11KV PCVC Breakers for bifurcating the existing overloaded feeders at 66/11KV MUSS Kattige in 220kV Benkikere RS Division KPTCL.**

4) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/23-24 / 95 Call-3 dated: 26.09.2023 for **Providing Additional 11KV 1 PCVC Breakers for bifurcating the existing overloaded feeders of Transformer-01(8MVA) at 66/11KV MUSS Benkikere, 220kV Benkikere RS Division KPTCL.**

5) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/W&M/DVG/EE/AEE-1/23-24 / 94 Call-3 dated: 26.09.2023 for **Providing Additional 11KV 1B+4F PCVC Breakers for bifurcating the existing overloaded feeders of Transformer-01 (20 MVA) at 66/11KV MUSS Channagiri, 220kV Benkikere RS Division KPTCL.**

Tenders will be accepted through e-procurement Mode Only. For further details, prospective Bidders are advised to log on to **website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** & click on to hyperlink e-procurement-kptcl to participate in e-procurement portal on or **after 27.10.2023.**

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, (Ele), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Near Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davangere.

ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ನಂ.16 ಸಿ, ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಆಜಾದ್ ಭವನ, ಮಿಲ್ಲರ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಬೆಡ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಸಂತ ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560052.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080-22535901/02, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 8277799990.
Email:directorgokdom@gmail.com Website: https://dom.karnataka.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಅ.ಸಂ.ನಿ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್-65/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26-10-2023

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡೇಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ಡ್ರೈವರ್, ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದಿನ ಆದೇಶದವರೆಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999, ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **26.10.2023,** (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **09.11.2023,** ಸಂಜೆ **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ, (3) ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **31.10.2023** (4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **10.11.2023,** ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, (5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ : ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ (6) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: – (7) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ.**98.00** ಲಕ್ಷ (ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ) (8) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ.**1,96,000**/– (9) ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಅಬುಲ್ ಕಲಾಂ ಆಜಾದ್ ಭವನ, ನಂ.**16**.ಸಿ, ಮಿಲ್ಲರ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಬೆಡ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಸಂತನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – **560052. 080–22535902 ,080–22535912.**

ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/1867/Zen/2023-24

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No. E-72/2023-24 **E-TENDERS** **Date. 21-10-2023**

E-Tenders are invited for & behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence-S. No. Tender No.(Due Date) Description and Quantity. 01.) 05231154 (14.11.2023), (i) Flat Wire Brush Cleaning for P.C., Part No.15610536, Qty. 19 Nos. (ii) Wire Brush for Cleaning of C/Case, Part No. 15610548, Qty. 15 Nos. **02.)** 05231207 (16.11.2023), (i) Accessory Housing Alignment Gauge, Part No. 15610056, Qty. 03 Nos. (ii) Timing Gauge for End of Injection, Part No. 15610263, Qty. 28 Nos. (iii) Leak Test Gauge Attachment, Part No. 15610410, Qty. 12 Nos. (iv) Gauge with Dial Indicator for Cam Shaft, Part No. 15610482, Qty. 02 Nos. (v) Gauge Block for Lash Adjuster Test, Part No. 15610809, Qty. 09 Nos. **03.)** 05231134 (20.11.2023), (i) Depresser Valve SGS Ring, Part No. 15510670, Qty. 09 Nos. (ii) Hook for Lifting Accessory Drive, Part No. 15610019, Qty. 01 Nos. **04.)** 05231173 (20.11.2023), Lifter for Radiator Assembly, Part No. 15630043, Qty. 04 Nos. **05.)** 05231066 (21.11.2023), Insert Pressing Fixture for Crank, Part No. 15610550, Qty. 02 Nos. **06.)** 05231162 (21.11.2023), (i) Puller for Valve Bridge Lash Adjuster, Part No. 15610690, Qty. 23 Nos. (ii) Wrench for loosening Nut of Injector, Part No. 15610731, Qty. 12 Nos. **07.)** 05231147 (22.11.2023), (i) Piston Holder for Power Pack, Part No. 15610196, Qty. 52 Nos. (ii) Hook and Clamp for Lifting Lube Oil, Part No. 15610238, Qty. 01 Nos. (iii) Bracket Lifter for Assembly, Part No. 15610240, Qty. 03 Nos. (iv) Eye Bolt for Lifting Turbo, Part No. 15610378, Qty. 70 Nos. (v) Piston Ring Compressure Guide, Part No. 15610408, Qty. 10 Nos. **08.)** 05231151 (24.11.2023), (i) Lifting Arrangement for Head Frome, Part No. 15610433, Qty. 01 Nos. (ii) Arrangement for Alignment of r.s. water pump, Part No. 15610470, Qty. 01 Nos. (iii) Clamp for Lifting Idler GearStub, Part No. 15610494, Qty. 02 Nos. **09.)** 05231169 (06.12.2023), Wrench for Basket Bolt & Nut, Part No. 15610860, Qty. 04 Nos. **10.)** 05231167 (06.12.2023), Crank Over Tool for EMD Engines, Part No. 15610846, Qty. 01 Nos. **11.)** 05231170 (11.12.2023), (i) Valve Bridge Spring Compressor, Part No. 15610627, Qty. 07 Nos. (ii) Reamer for Cylinder Test Valve Seat, Part No. 15610883, Qty. 10 Nos. **12.)** 05231166 (18.12.2023), (i) Pry Bar for Injector Removing, Part No. 15610720, Qty. 04 Nos. (ii) Box Socket Wrench-half Moon 5/8" X 3/4" , Part No. 15610810, Qty. 01 Nos. **13.)** 05231161 (18.12.2023), Tube for Crab Stud Thread Projector, Part No. 15610664, Qty. 22 Nos. **14.)** 05231164 (19.12.2023), Clamp, Part No. 15610743, Qty. 06 Nos. **15.)** 05235085A (10.11.2023), Sinumerik 840 DSL, 01 Nos **16.)** 05235185A (16.11.2023), Hydraulic Jack Capacity 30 Ton, 01 Set. **17.)** 05235224 (16.11.2023), (1) Axle Turning kit with TNMG 220412 Insert, 03 Set. (2) Axle turning kit with DNMG 150608 Insert, 08 Set. **18.)** 05235153A (21.11.2023), Earth Ground clamp meter, 03Nos. **19.)** 05235164A (28.11.2023), Sensor module DMC 20, 01 Set, **20.)** 05235159A (29.11.2023), 3 Phase Servo Motor, 01 Nos. **21.)** 06231112A (16/11/2023), LED BASED FLASHER LIGHT I) ELRS/SPEC/LFL/0017 (REV.1. SEPT 2004) II) CLW/ES/SK-3/L-21/C specn. I) ELRS/SPEC/LFL/0017 (REV 1 SEPT 2004) II) CLW/ES/SK-3/L21/C to PL No 29612937, Qty. 963 Set. **22.)** 06231754, (07/12/2023), COMPLETE PANEL-A, PANEL-C (WITHOUT DRIVER DISPLAY UNIT) & PANEL- D ALONG WITH ALL EQUIPMENTS, HARDWARES, WIRING /CABLING FOR WAG-9 NOTE- PANEL - C WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH COMPLETE ASSEMBLY MOUNTING ON ITS PLATE AS PER SPEC 0453 ALT. B as per Specn. CLW/ES/3/0239/D, 0240/B,0241/B,0453/B BLW letter No BLW/D&D/WAP-7/EM/Cubicle dated 03.05.2023 to PL No. 29178204, Qty. 794 Nos. **23.)** 02231361A (22/11/2023), Bolt Cylinder Crab Forging, PL No. 17230123, 1484 Nos. **24.)** 02231214A (02/11/2023), Kit-02(Kil for Nuts) (Used In ES) Kit (06-Cylinder), PL No 10272793, 02 Set **25.)** 02224125E (02/11/2023), Hug Lock Nut:3/8", PL. No. 15377120, 239 Nos. **26.)** 02231343C (16/11/2023), Stn. Steel Hardware Items Kit for LAS, PL No, 29408519, 462 Set. **27.)** 02231382A (16/11/2023), Stn. Steel Hardware Items Kit for TAS CAB, PL No. 29408532, 276 Set. The details of above tenders are available on **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in, Corrigendum, Bid No.:** E-71 **Tender No.:** 01231001C Soak Back Filter PL No. 16240881, **Revision:** 01 **Details of Correction Existing Due Date:** 28.11.2023 **Revised Due Date:** 08.11.2023 **Note:- All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged for above tenders.**

PR/BLW/S-77 **Principal Chief Material Manager**

/blwvaranasi" Website:- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

What does the abortion verdict mean for reproductive justice?

A Bench of the Supreme Court said recognition of a woman's autonomy cannot eclipse the 'rights of the unborn child'

Saumya Kalia

Women's autonomy is caught up in a debate about rights of the foetus. GETTY IMAGES

The Supreme Court this month rejected a woman's plea for abortion. The woman – 26 weeks pregnant, married, with two children, and dealing with postpartum psychosis – requested termination because she was "physically, emotionally, mentally, financially and medically unable to carry, deliver or raise a child." Denying her request, the three-judge Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India said the Court's recognition of a woman's autonomy cannot eclipse the "rights of the unborn child".

Gauri Pillai, an Assistant Professor at the National Law School of India University, explains the Court's verdict– one year after a landmark ruling expanded the scope of abortion rights in India.

Edited excerpts:

The Supreme Court in 2022's *X v NCT* acknowledged women's 'right to choose'. How does the present verdict interpret this right?

There is no doubt that the verdict dilutes women's right to choose, as understood by previous Supreme Court decisions including the landmark *X v NCT*. On the one hand, rights are rarely absolute and are typically subject to limitations. On the other, in the context of abortion, Indian courts have not explicitly articulated what these limitations are.

At the level of constitutional principle, they have tended to see the right as vesting solely with women. *X v NCT* declared that 'it is the woman alone who has the right over her body' and is the 'ultimate decision-maker' on abortion. However, in practice, when individual women come before courts, a discourse on foetal rights has begun to emerge. Women, it seems, are not "ultimate decision-makers."

This leads to incoherence in jurisprudence: the constitutional right to abortion does not appear to accommodate the limitations the Court authorises in practice. It also risks reducing the Court's proclamations on women's rights to rhetoric.

India has taken pride in its 'progressive' abortion laws that respect women's autonomy. The Court refused to hear arguments on autonomy in this case. Why is that?

The Court seems to be pitting some form of foetal right to life against women's right to autonomy. In a battle between 'life' and 'autonomy,' it is not surprising that autonomy was seen to be on a 'different footing' and lost out. This reasoning could also create hierarchies: certain forms of autonomy (say, asking for abortion in rape cases) will be seen as more weighty when balanced against life, and other forms (like the current petitioner) as less weighty.

This pitting exercise indicates why it is so important to be clear on what the foetal interest involved is. Is it life? Is it a form of potential life (which would, arguably, be less weighty)? Irrespective of what the foetus *is* (which is not a legal determination), what status *should* it be granted within the law? And how should this legal status, if granted, be protected – through restricting abortions or other means?

> In practice, when women come before courts, a discourse on foetal rights has emerged

The Court earlier held that continuing with an unwanted pregnancy adversely impacts mental health and can be grounds for abortion. What was its present stance?

This is another unfortunate example of seemingly expansive constitutional principles reduced to rhetoric in practice. In *X v NCT*, the Supreme Court did not confine "mental health" to medical diagnosis. Rather, the Court said it must be understood based on the petitioner's "self and experiences". In the present case, the petitioner pleaded for an abortion because she was suffering from post-partum psychosis – lack of sleep, hallucinations, suicide attempts – after her previous pregnancy. She submitted prescriptions as evidence of her medical condition, stressing that postpartum psychosis was more severe than postpartum depression.

While the Court eventually decided that the mental health ground for abortion did not extend beyond 24 weeks of gestation, it questioned the validity of the petitioner's argument... suggesting that the prescriptions might have been doctored to 'bolster the case'.

What is the rationale of the 'viability' theory, as argued by the Union Government?

The theory is: When the foetus reaches a point of viability – where it can exist outside the womb of the woman (with medical support) – the right to abortion should be curtailed. Viability was most famously endorsed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe v Wade* in 1973; in 1992, this was replaced with a different test , and in 2022, the Court rejected the viability standard completely.

In India, the viability of the foetus has historically had no purchase in restricting abortion. While India's 1971 law allows third-trimester abortions in limited circumstances, this appears to have been driven by a need to protect women's health rather than protect the foetus. At the time of passing the 1971 law, only two members of the Legislative Assembly protested against abortion (calling it "murder" and a "crime against humanity"). The others endorsed it and affirmed that "there is no violation of the right to life in any manner."

However, in 2009, the Indian Supreme Court, citing the U.S. decision in *Roe*, suggested that the state has a 'compelling interest' to protect the foetus which is a form of "potential life." The state can, then, impose 'reasonable restrictions' on abortion. The Court did not, however, mention viability; yet, some loose version of viability seems to exist. In 2016, the Punjab and Haryana High Court claimed that once the pregnancy is viable, the 'potential child' becomes a part of the determination. The Calcutta High Court in 2019 said that at an advanced stage of pregnancy, 'the right to life of the foetus outweighs the [mother's] mental trauma' . There is no explicit articulation of this standard or a defence of it, despite it being highly critiqued; it has simply been slipped into the law.

What are the rights of a foetus under Indian law?

The rights of a foetus are unclear – there has been no upfront articulation of it. Whether the foetus possesses rights, or simply "interests" (as SC termed it in 2009) is also ambiguous. A 2016 Bombay High Court decision relied on international human rights law to hold that the foetus does not have rights till birth. In essence, the state of law is jumbled, and requires urgent deliberation, especially if foetal interests (or, rights) are being used to restrict abortion rights.

Has the law tried to engage with the question of when 'life comes into being' before?

Whether the foetus should, at all, be a relevant factor in abortion regulation is a question that has not been answered in India.

For the law, a pregnant woman is a unique subject. The foetus is intimately associated with the body of the woman, in a way that is different from all other situations that the law regulates. Any form of recognition of the foetus will, therefore, most likely grievously invade women's legally recognised rights. When we contemplate the *legal* (as opposed to ethical, moral or religious) status of the foetus, a strong case can be made that the impact on women has to be a consideration.

On the other hand, even if some legally relevant status is granted to foetuses, it need not signal the end of liberal abortion laws. Empirical evidence suggests that restrictive abortion laws do not protect foetuses; they push women toward unsafe abortions. If foetal protection is the aim, better alternatives exist: comprehensive sex education, access to contraception, reducing violence against women, and providing childcare support, which reduce rate of abortions.

The pregnant woman's rights were seen as extending only as far as they did not harm a viable foetus. The Court reasoned that it was following the conditions [under the MTP Act] and seemed to suggest that its hands were tied. However, this not entirely true. The Court possesses power to do 'complete justice'. It has previously read abortion law liberally even when the text did not explicitly authorise it. The Court choosing not to do so was, then, less about law and more about concern for the foetus.

The CJI asked why the woman took 26 weeks to decide. Do laws account for challenges such as healthcare gaps and stigma, and link the right to abortion with equality?

Typically, abortion cases are seen as involving the right to privacy. However, abortions are also necessary to guarantee women equality. Denying abortions perpetuates women's disadvantage: In pushing some women to seek abortions with unsafe providers, their lives are threatened. For those who are forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy, there is a risk to their physical and mental health. *[Women denied abortions report a higher risk of complications like eclampsia and postpartum haemorrhage , research shows.]*

Being denied abortions has a socio-economic impact on women. It also entrenches stereotypical assumptions about women's role as mothers, leading to abortion stigma and provider bias.

The Court has repeatedly held that perpetuating the disadvantage of a historically disadvantaged group is what inequality looks like. Under this definition, the denial of abortion is an obvious equality issue.

(saumya.k@thehindu.co.in)

BIG SHOT

Oleksandr, a 37-year-old Ukrainian double amputee soldier, during a training session at an Adonis rehabilitation centre in Kyiv, Ukraine. Oleksandr lost his legs in the spring of 2023, while he was asleep in his trench when it came under Russian tank fire around Krasnohorivka region. The toll of the war has surged, with new rehabilitation centres opening across the country. GETTY IMAGES

Osteoporosis has a huge impact on quality of life and needs to be on the radar of medical practitioners for early diagnosis. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Unmasking the Indian osteoporosis care crisis

Christianez Ratna Kiruba

Only a small percentage of people in India receive care for their osteoporosis - a condition characterised by weakening of bones

Nazma is a 55-year-old housewife who began to feel "bone pain" all over her body, some years ago. "First, it was mild. But after a while, I felt it constantly", she says. "I went to many doctors. We got a few normal X-rays, so they gave me painkillers. But I did not get better. One doctor even prescribed an antidepressant, thinking it was all in my head. After two or three years of this treatment, I consulted a doctor who said my bones were probably becoming weaker as my periods had stopped long ago. It was the first time I had heard such a thing. She suggested a scan to check my bone strength. The reports showed osteoporosis. The doctor said that alongside causing me pain, osteoporosis would also increase the chances of fractures."

Ms. Nazma's is not an exception. The unpleasant reality is that only a small percentage of people in India receive care for their osteoporosis - a condition characterised by weakening of bones.

We have all seen people begin to stoop as they grow older. That is because of osteoporosis. The weakening of the bone not only causes long-term pain but also changes in posture and increases chances of fractures and nerve injury if the bone affected is the spine. All of these problems negatively impact the quality of life and increase disability and financial burden on the family, and yet osteoporosis is not receiving the attention it deserves in medical practice.

Though there are no large-scale studies on osteoporosis in India, projected data shows that at least 46 million women in India currently live with post-menopausal osteoporosis, which is only one type of osteoporosis. If you include women who had surgeries to remove their uterus, people who used steroid medication for a long time and, men who developed osteoporosis because of old age, the number may be over double. A 2019 study also revealed that India was the highest contributor to osteoporosis fracture-related deaths/disabilities worldwide.

"There are enormous gaps in knowledge about osteoporosis, even among doctors," says Alfia Kaki, a doctor in Guwahati. "Nobody with long-term pain is going to make an appointment with an endocrinologist (which is where all the knowledge about bone conditions is concentrated, as of date). They will either come to a general practitioner or, if it worsens, to an orthopaedic. And in India, doctors in this capacity are ill-equipped to handle osteoporosis."

Dr Alfia's claim is supported by a study conducted among 222 medical practitioners at both graduate and postgraduate levels in south India to test their knowledge about osteoporosis. The study revealed that the mean score of doctors was 22.5% with every single doctor scoring less than 50%.

"Considering that Indian women have many micronutrient deficiencies and do not set aside time for exercise, there needs to be a high index of suspicion for osteoporosis in every patient," says Manisha Deka, a consultant physician working in Central Railway Hospital, Guwahati. "Every other older female patient I see has osteoporosis. And because I understand how widely prevalent it is, I make it a point to look for it. Osteoporosis isn't a secondary diagnosis a doctor can keep at the back of their mind. One must actively look for and rule it out in patients with vague bone pains."

"Even in patients who have had fractures and have undergone surgery, it is not routine for doctors here to go back to see why the patient's bone was fragile enough to break. That is truly unfortunate," says Dr Alfia.

Also of interest is that most of the Indian population does not have access to DEXA or the bone mineral density scan - the gold standard test for osteoporosis. "When I wanted a DEXA for my mother, I called many hospitals and centres," said Mohammad Aslam Ali. "Only two or three centres have the scan facility in Guwahati - all private. And Guwahati is a state capital. I can only imagine what it's like in other areas", he says. A study found that in India, there are only 0.26 DEXA machines per million of the population.

"If you look at guidelines for treatment, they say, perform a DEXA for diagnosis and start medication. The guidelines also ask us to repeat the DEXA yearly to see if treatment is working. This focus on a scan which is available to barely 10% of the population is unreasonable," adds Dr Alfia. "There is a need for conversations in the medical circle about how to diagnose and effectively treat osteoporosis in resource-limited set-ups."

"In resource-limited settings, I used the Singh index to diagnose osteoporosis", says Suranjan Bhattacharjee, a retired professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation who worked in a mission hospital in Bissamcuttack, Odisha, serving a poor locality. "The Singh index is a score that requires only an X-ray of the patient's pelvis to diagnose osteoporosis. I didn't have the facilities to check vitamin D levels in blood, so I also started them on calcium and vitamin D supplements without the blood tests," he adds.

Dr. Suranjan's experience suggests that, in the realm of osteoporosis care, India's infrastructure limitations can be overcome by acquiring proper knowledge and engaging in meaningful discussions within our context.

This osteoporosis day's (20th October) the theme was 'Build better bones'. To do so, we must realise that our nation is grappling with this silent epidemic. Millions suffer in silence as their pain goes unnoticed and their quality of life is compromised. To bridge the osteoporosis care gap in India we must promote awareness and aim for early intervention. It's time to empower healthcare providers everywhere with context-specific knowledge to diagnose, treat, and prevent this debilitating condition, ensuring a healthier and pain-free future for all.

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For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

HC quashes criminal case against Sushil Mantri on delay in delivery of flats

'Criminal law can't be invoked for delay in delivery of flats in the absence of dishonest intent'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that delay in delivery of flats may amount to a breach of agreement but will not amount to a criminal breach of trust or cheating under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) when such circumstances are addressed in the terms and conditions of the agreements, the High Court of Karnataka has quashed criminal case registered against Sushil P. Mantri of Mantri Developers Pvt. Ltd. and his family members.

"Criminal law cannot be set into motion on the said delay in delivery of flats, as those facts arise out of agreements entered into between the parties, at best, it can be breach of agreement," the court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing the petitions filed

by Mr. Sushil Mantri, his wife Snehal S. Mantri, their son Pratik S. Matri, and their companies.

The petitioners had questioned the legality of the registration of the first information report (FIR) by Subramanyapura police based on a complaint lodged by Dhananjaya P., who had booked a flat in the company's 'Mantri Serenity' project on Kanakapura Road in Bengaluru.

Quoting the apex court's judgments on breach of contracts/agreements, Justice Nagaprasanna said that every breach of contract, unless it is shrouded with dishonest intention at the outset, cannot become an offence of cheating and criminal breach of trust under the IPC.

The court noted that 'Mantri Serenity' project was delayed for certain reasons and at that stage the complainant had lodged complaints before various fora alleging that funds of the projects were illegally diverted by the company and its directors.

Sale deeds registered

Also, the court noted that the company had subsequently received an occupancy certificate and had already registered sale deeds in favour of around 1,800 purchasers of flats in 'Mantri Serenity' project but the complainant had declined registration of the sale deed by citing certain reasons.

"If the execution of the sale deed is not accepted by the complainant, it cannot mean that it would become a criminal breach of trust or cheating, as the case would be, as there is no dishonest intention right from the inception of the transaction by the petitioners," the court observed.

Other fora

While giving liberty to the complainant to move any fora, specifically created for that purpose, on the grievance that he is seeking to vent out in terms of the agreement, the court said that observations made in this order would not influence or bind proceedings before other fora.

Meanwhile, the court also quashed a separate proceeding initiated by the Enforcement Directorate against the petitioners based on the criminal case registered with the Subramanyapura police by the complainant.

Three booked for slaughtering sheep publicly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kadugodi police have booked three people for slaughtering a sheep publicly as part of animal sacrifice for a local deity during the Dasara festival in front of Seegehalli gram panchayat office at Kadugodi on Wednesday.

Harish K.B., an anti-animal cruelty officer with People for Animals, an NGO working for animal welfare, noticed the incident and alerted the police on their social media account. Based on the information, Head Constable, Chikka Yallappa rushed to the spot

An anti-animal cruelty officer noticed the incident and alerted the police on their social media account

and found blood stains around the area. But by then the accused had left the place with the sacrificed animal. Chikka Yellappa later filed a case against the trio identified as Babu, Munikrishna, and Munirju, charging them under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and also under Karnataka Prevention of Animal Sacrifice Act for further investigations.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of mass killings in United States this year

36 At least 18 people were killed and 13 were injured in a mass shooting in Maine, U.S. It's the 36th mass killing in the United States this year, according to a database maintained by AP and USA Today. AP

Premature withdrawal on term deposits limit raised

1 cr. The Reserve Bank on Thursday said banks will have to offer premature withdrawal facility on all term deposits of up to ₹1 crore, raising the limit from ₹15 lakh. The order have come into force with immediate effect. PTI

Vodafone Idea's net loss in the second quarter

8,738 in crore. Debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Thursday said its consolidated net loss widened to ₹8,737.9 crore in the second quarter. PTI

Length of mobile internet ban in Manipur

30 days Mobile internet was banned in the State after violence broke out on May 3. Though it was restored on September 23, it was curbed again on September 26. It has been further extended till October 31. PTI

Average age of China's youngest-ever space crew

38 China launched its youngest-ever crew consisting of three astronauts — Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie and Jiang Xinlin — for its orbiting space station on Thursday. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The T.N. experience on caste survey

What have been the challenges associated with caste-based surveys and reservation policies in Tamil Nadu? How do caste-based surveys impact the debate on reservations in different regions of India? Why did the Supreme Court invalidate the law related to Vanniyar reservations in the State in 2022?

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

The Bihar caste-based survey has spurred nationwide calls for a similar census and discussions about exceeding the 50% reservation limit. However, looking at Tamil Nadu's past, a caste census alone may not lead to increased other backward class (OBC) reservations. The Second Backward Classes Commission (1982-85) in Tamil Nadu even recommended a reduction in reservation percentages. The First BC panel (1969-70), led by A.N. Sattanathan, suggested raising BC reservations, but the idea of a creamy layer hasn't gained political backing.

How did the Second BC Commission come into being?

In January 1980, smarting from a severe drubbing in the Lok Sabha election, the then AIADMK regime, headed by M.G. Ramachandran, announced the hike in the share of reservation for BCs from 31% to 50%, taking the total quantum to 68% that included 18% for Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST). (After STs got one per cent exclusive reservation in June 1990, the overall tally went up to 69%). Once the decision became a subject matter of litigation in the Supreme Court, the State government gave an undertaking in October 1982 that it would set up a panel to review the existing enumeration and classification of BCs. Two months later, the panel was constituted with the former Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Public Services Commission, J.A. Ambasankar, as the head. The BC panel submitted its report to the government in February 1985.

What was the highlight of the Commission's work?

The Socio-Educational-cum-Economic Survey was conducted in two stages during 1983-84. In the first stage, a cent per cent door-to-door enumeration was conducted for the enumeration and classification of BCs. This was decided as the Ambasankar Commission found that the previous panel - one headed by Sattanathan - took into account only the 1921 Census, when 88 communities were enumerated as against 31 in 1931, and projected it over 50 years to arrive at the caste-wise population. Estimating the total population of the State as 4,99,90,743 , the Second BC panel drew up a list of 298 communities, classified under main groups such as BCs, Most BCs, Denotified Communities (DNCs), SCs, STs and others. The panel confined itself essentially to the BCs, without giving an exhaustive break-up of all the communities. The Commission had worked out that the population of the BCs was 3,35,70,805, accounting for 67.15% of the State's overall population. In respect of SCs, the figure was 92,08,917; STs - 5,54,918 and others - 66,56,103. In March 1989, an exclusive quota - 20% - was provided for MBCs and DNCs within the total share of BCs of 50%. Based on the Ambasankar panel's workings, the State Backward Classes Commission, in May 2012, arrived at the figure of 1,23,17,745 as the population of the MBCs and DNCs.

Representative Image. PTI

The Commission held a 5 per cent random sample survey of students in 37,000 schools along with a survey of students in all 232 colleges and seven universities. Finally, to ascertain the representation of BCs in public services, it arranged a full-scale survey of 'public servants' in each grade as of July 1, 1983.

What were the recommendations of the Commission?

Even as the panel was in the last leg of its work, differences erupted between a majority of members and the Chairman, Ambasankar. While the latter wanted the quantum of reservation for BCs to be brought down to 32% so that the overall figure did not exceed the 50% ceiling, the dissenting members had argued that as the population of BCs was about 67%, the quantum should be at least 50%.

Another area of difference was the coverage of reservations. The Chairman had insisted that all those found eligible for quota under Article 15(4) (which deals with special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the SCs and STs) "will not be automatically entitled" to reservation in appointments under Article 16 (4) (which talks of making reservation in jobs for any backward class that is "not adequately represented" in public services). So, he was for two separate lists of BCs, one under Article 15(4) and another under Article 16(4). But, the members had all favoured only one list. They asserted that "social backwardness and educational backwardness are inseparable and intertwined. From seeing certain families in certain Backward Classes occupying jobs and employment cannot mean educational advancement of their respective communities. Educational benefits contemplated under Article 15(4) are the means and the benefits under Article 16(4) to get [a] job is the end."

Two sets of recommendations, one from the Chairman and another from the members, were furnished to the government, which, however, chose not to disturb the *status quo* with regard to the quantum of reservation - 50% for BCs. The government also did not agree with the recommendation of deletion of 24 communities even though it toed the line of the panel for the inclusion of 29 communities.

How did the 1992 Supreme Court judgment affect State reservations?

In the wake of the Supreme Court's judgment in the Mandal Commission case in 1992, the State was forced to enact a law to safeguard the 69% quota and have it placed under the Ninth Schedule. During 2007-09, the DMK government had exclusively provided 3.5% each for Muslims and Christians within the quota of BCs. Subsequently, the separate quota for Christians was withdrawn. In May 2009, Arunthathiyars, a constituent of SCs, were given 3% within the 18% quota for the SCs. In February 2021, the AIADMK regime got a bill adopted by the Assembly for 10.5% reservation for Vanniyars or Vanniyakula Kshatriyas in education and employment within the overall quantum of 20% for the MBCs. However, the Supreme Court, a year later, struck down the law on the ground that the data of the Ambasankar panel were not contemporaneous.

THE GIST

- The Second BC Commission was established in Tamil Nadu in 1982, following a government decision to increase the BC reservation from 31% to 50%.
- The Commission conducted a survey in two stages in 1983-84, focusing on enumeration and classification of BCs.
- The Commission's findings showed that BCs constituted a significant portion of the State's population, leading to a 50% reservation quota for BCs in Tamil Nadu.
- Differences arose between the Commission's Chairman, Ambasankar, and other members regarding the quantum of BC reservation and the inclusion of certain castes.
- Despite these differences, the government chose to maintain the 50% reservation quota for BCs and included some new communities while rejecting the exclusion of others.

Why are the China-Bhutan boundary talks significant?

How can Bhutan ensure that its decisions consider both India's interests and its own sovereignty? What is the significance of the Doklam plateau in the context of regional geopolitics?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

China and Bhutan held their 25th round of boundary talks in Beijing and signed a Cooperation Agreement on the "Responsibilities and Functions of the Joint Technical Team (JTT) on the Delimitation and Demarcation of the Bhutan-China Boundary." This advances their 3-Step Roadmap initiated in 2021 for border resolution, building on the positive momentum since their last talks in 2016.

Why are the talks this week significant?

The Boundary talks between Bhutan and China were held after a gap of seven years and indicate significant progress has been made. Bhutan and the Tibetan Autonomous Region share a contiguous border to Bhutan's north and west. Since 1984, Bhutan and China had held 24 rounds of talks to resolve the disputes until 2016, but the 25th round appeared to have been held up after the Doklam Standoff between Indian and Chinese armies in 2017, and then the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019-2021. However, the two sides used the pause to hold talks at other levels in rapid succession, especially after China threatened to open a new front for a border dispute to Bhutan's east. Since then, the Expert Group of diplomats on both sides met in 2021 to agree on a 3-step roadmap, and the first boundary delimitation technical talks were held in August 2023. In an interview with *The Hindu* this month, Bhutan's Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering said that the two sides were "inching towards" completing the roadmap even before his government demits office ahead of Bhutanese elections in 2024, and FM Tandi Dorji's visit to Beijing indicates that further progress has indeed been made.

What is the 3-Step Roadmap?

The 3-Step roadmap MoU signed by the Bhutanese Foreign Minister and Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister in 2021, and the JTT established to implement the roadmap by the Expert Group in August are hoping to draw a line clearly delineating Bhutanese and Chinese territory for the first time. Bhutan and China don't have diplomatic ties, as Bhutan has traditionally avoided diplomatic relations with all the United Nations Security Council permanent members. The 3-Step Roadmap involves first, agreeing to the border "on the table"; then visiting the sites on the ground; and then formally demarcating the boundary.

Why is India watching closely?

For India, given the breakdown in its ties with China over the standoff at the Line of Actual Control from 2020, any hint of closer ties between China and one of its closest neighbours is a cause for worry. More specifically, New Delhi is watching the demarcation discussions over Doklam, as amongst the proposals China has placed on the table is an agreement to "swap" areas in Doklam under Bhutanese control with areas in Jakarlung and Pasamlung which China claims. The Doklam trijunction cuts very close to India's Siliguri corridor a narrow area that connects the North Eastern States to the rest of India and India would not like to see China gain access to any area closer to it. Since the Doklam standoff in 2017, China has doubled down on its control of the Doklam plateau, and according to a recent Pentagon report, has continued to build "underground storage facilities [], new roads [], and new villages in disputed areas in neighbouring Bhutan," erasing many of the strategic gains that New Delhi had hoped for after China agreed to step back from the standoff point in 2017. Finally, India's worry is over China's demand for full diplomatic relations with Bhutan, and opening an Embassy in Thimphu. Given India's challenges with Chinese projects and funding in other neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, any Chinese presence in a small country like Bhutan would be problematic. However, Bhutan's leadership has thus far said that all decisions would consider India's interests and that it has always consulted India on issues of concern.

THE GIST

- China and Bhutan held their 25th round of boundary talks and signed a Cooperation Agreement related to the demarcation of the Bhutan-China border.
- Bhutan-China border dispute primarily concerns the Doklam plateau and the India-China-Bhutan trijunction, as well as the Jakarlung and Pasamlung valleys.
- The 3-Step Roadmap initiated in 2021 aims to clearly delineate the Bhutanese and Chinese territories, involving discussions at the table, on-site visits, and formal demarcation.

Govt. mulls over voluntary disclosure policy to provide chance to surrender wildlife artefacts

The policy the State government is exploring is in the larger public interest as many are still not aware of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, says Minister Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After several celebrities were accused of possessing tiger claw pendants, including Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, a former brand ambassador of the Forest Department, and actor and Rajya Sabha member Jaggesh, the State government is contemplating a voluntary disclosure policy under which those illegally owning wildlife artefacts will be given an opportunity to surrender the materials, without penal action.

Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology Eshwar Khandre on Thursday said, "We are exploring the option of providing an opportunity to surrender the artefacts to those illegally owning them, in the larger public interest. The surrendered wildlife materials will be destroyed by the Forest Department."

When asked whether the policy was proposed to protect influential people who have come under the scanner of the department, he said, "Everyone is equal before the law and the department has commenced legal procedures in the complaints filed so far."

Minister for Forest, Environment and Ecology Eshwar Khandre at a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

He further said, "This policy which the State government is exploring is in the larger public interest as many are still not aware of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972."

Earlier amnesty

In 1972, 1973, and 2002 amnesty was provided to those possessing illegal wildlife items and the department is currently in touch with the Union government to explore voluntary disclosure possibilities under the existing legal framework. In earlier years, a window was created to own the artefacts after declaration. Those who disclosed the materials were given permission by the department to own them on the condition that they do not flaunt them.

Mr. Khandre said the task force that was constituted on Wednesday was instructed to submit a report on previous cases and measures to strengthen the implementation of the law in the State. He said the department had been receiving complaints about those owning tiger claw pendants after Big Boss contestant Varthur Santosh was apprehended and in every case, officials were working as per the legal procedures.

Mr. Khandre also appealed to the public not to wear fake tiger claw pendants as this would promote the purchase of original tiger claws. He added the department would launch an awareness campaign on the Wildlife Act.

Priests arrested

Meanwhile, Chikkamagaluru range forest officers on Thursday arrested two priests, identified as Krishnananda Holla and Nagendra Jois, for wearing tiger claws fashioned as pendants.

Sources in the department said the priests were not only wearing the pendants but also encouraging others to wear them based on some belief. They were produced before the court. The priests are attached to Markandeshwara Swamy temple at Khandya. In Joida, Uttara Kannada district, officials arrested a hotel owner identified as Prakash Naik for sporting a tiger claw pendant.

The department has received eight cases so far and on Thursday officials raided the residence of BJP leader Vijugowda Patil in Vijayapura after a photograph of his son wearing a pendant surfaced on social media. A senior police official said the tiger claws recovered from the accused were sent to Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Dehradun.

Activists oppose govt. move

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Wildlife conservationists and activists have raised a red flag over the Karnataka government's proposal to bring in a voluntary disclosure policy to facilitate those illegally owning wildlife artefacts to surrender the items to the Forest Department.

> The government should not condone the act of possessing wildlife artefacts or materials as it has serious ramifications.
>
> **PRAVEEN BHARGAV,** Trustee, Wildlife First, and former member of the National Board for Wildlife

After Big Boss contestant and bull race organiser Varthur Santosh was arrested from the sets of the reality show, the department received a flood of complaints against those owing tiger claw pendants, including prominent personalities such as former brand ambassador of the department and actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and actor and Rajya Sabha member Jaggesh.

Wildlife conservationists say that the government was treading the wrong path by deciding to open a voluntary disclosure window as it has serious implications in the wildlife trade which is estimated to be $20 billion internationally. Instead, the government should take this opportunity to crack down on the trade, finding the trade route end to end. The experts also expressed apprehension saying the legal framework may not allow the State to create a fresh window for surrendering these artefacts without penal action.

Praveen Bhargav, trustee, Wildlife First, and former member of the National Board for Wildlife, said that the government should not condone the act of possessing wildlife artefacts or materials as it had serious ramifications. "Also under the existing law, it is not possible to devise a declaration policy and the Wildlife Act 1972 is very stringent in nature."

Mr. Bhargav, who is also a prominent conservationist, stressed that the special task force constituted by the department should focus on investigating the trade route end to end. "The Forest Department now has a golden opportunity to break the spine of the trade. It is sad to see the government's stand on the ongoing tiger claw phenomenon. He said that the current trend which has unfolded after the arrest of Santosh coupled with the government's proposal may further boost the trade with demand for the artefacts shooting up. In all cases, the department has to act stringently," he said.

Sharath Babu, a wildlife expert, said he would vehemently oppose the government's proposal as this would not solve the problem of wildlife trade. Mr. Babu said irrespective of the stature of any accused, the department had to initiate stern action.

Call to set up centralised DNA repository

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Conservationists have urged the government to establish a centralised DNA repository of animal samples to track the origins of wildlife derivatives.

They say that it will be difficult for the authorities to prove in a court of law the origin of the wildlife derivative and artefacts unless they are subjected to DNA analysis as the owners can make fake claims that they were procured abroad.

H.S. Prayag, Chief Veterinary Officer (Mobile and Extension), Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, said establishing a DNA repository of wildlife would not cost much.

He said tiger scats were collected and subjected to DNA analysis, especially during census operations. He said the repository would come in handy in such cases where wildlife artefacts were seized but the source was unknown or the species of the animal is not clear.

"While it may not be possible to have the DNA samples of every tiger, the data is maintained with respect to a majority of them and are being constantly updated," said Dr. Prayag.

Dasara elephants head back to jungle camps

Send-off: People had assembled in large numbers outside the palace gates to bid adieu to Dasara elephants that left Mysuru on Thursday. M.A. SIRIAM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The 14 elephants that shored up Mysuru Dasara with their impeccable performance bid adieu to the city and left for their respective jungle camps on Thursday.

The elephants were in Mysuru since September 1 when the Gajapayana, signalling the countdown to Dasara, was flagged off at Veeranahosahalli in Nagarahole. The elephants, led by Abhimanyu, camped at the Mysuru palace grounds. They underwent training to familiarise them with the procession route, a process that entailed a 5-km walk, during the Jamboo Savari, which was held on October 24.

Showstoppers

The Dasara elephants tend to be the showstoppers during their sojourn in the city, and it was no different this year as well.

A record crowd had gathered on the palace premises to watch 'ambaari aane' (lead elephant in the procession) Abhimanyu carry the golden howdah with the idol of goddess Chamundeshwari.

On Thursday, it was time for the elephants, along with their mahouts and kaavadis, to pack up and leave for their respective jungle camps, which left many teary-eyed. The mahouts and the kaavadis, or assistants of each elephant, received ₹15,000 as honorarium.

While Abhimanyu, Mahendra, and Bheema belong to Mathigodu camp at Tithimathi in Kodagu district, Vijaya, Dhananjaya, Gopi, Prashantha, Sugriva, and Kanjan are from Dubare camp, also in Kodagu. Arjuna belongs to Balle camp, close to Kabini in Nagarahole, while Rohith and Hiranya are from Ramapura camp in Bandipur, and Lakshmi is from Doddaharave, near Periyapatana.

A large crowd had assembled in front of the Jayamartanda Gate to bid farewell when the convoy of trucks carrying the elephants left.

Tough task ahead

For the elephants that took part in Mysuru Dasara, a far more challenging and grueling task awaits on their return to camps.

While some of them will be deployed on jungle patrol and help the Forest Department in routine operations, the "able-bodied" male among them can be deployed in combing exercises in areas of man-animal conflict.

Some of the combing operation entailing capture of tigers go on for weeks without respite and elephants like Abhimanyu are cut out for it.

After Abhimanyu

Conservator of Forests Malathi Priya said they are now training the second line of leadership and accompanying Abhimanyu and Arjuna in most operations are Dhananjaya, Bheema, and Mahendra.

Both Dhananjaya and Mahendra are also among the elephants tipped to take over from Abhimanyu in carrying the golden howdah once the latter retires after two years. "He is around 57 and will be in Dasara for at least two years by when the next howdah elephant has to be trained," said Ms. Malathi Priya.

Tunnel boring machine Rudra achieves breakthrough

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru metro's tunnel boring machine (TBM) Rudra completed its 718-metre journey in 100 days by achieving a breakthrough at 10.45 a.m. on Thursday from Lakkasandra metro station.

This achievement marks the seventh out of nine TBMs of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), working on the Pink Line's underground corridor.

On July 14, TBM Rudra started its third and final tunnelling phase from Lakkasandra station. In its earlier stages, Rudra successfully tunnelled 613.2 m between the south ramp and Dairy Circle station and 746.2 m between Dairy Circle and Lakkasandra stations, according to the BMRCL.

The tunnel boring machine Rudra completed its 718-metre journey in 100 days. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Last year, in September, the machine faced unusual hurdles. The cutter head of the machine could not move after encountering a huge garbage pile.

Later, officials found out that in the 1980s, the area where the TBM was stuck used to be a quarry land turned into a landfill. This happened between Dairy Circle Station and Lakkasandra.

The section is part of the Pink Line between Kalena Agrahara and Nagawara being constructed under phase II of the Namma Metro project.

Union govt. defends references to mythology in reading module on Chandrayaan-3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union Ministry of Education has defended the inclusion of references to mythology in the special reading module crafted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on Chandrayaan-3 for schoolchildren.

In its clarification regarding news reports on this special module, the Ministry of Education said, "The NCERT has meticulously crafted 10 special modules on Chandrayaan-3 which offer a comprehensive overview of various facets of this mission, encompassing scientific, technological, cultural, and social aspects. Content within these modules has been thoughtfully designed to be interactive and engaging."

Cultural fabric

"The mythology and philosophy put forward ideas, and ideas lead to innovation and research. Numerous research studies emphasise that mythology plays an indispensable role in the cultural fabric of any country, including Bharat. Furthermore, the integration of culture into education not only fosters a profound understanding of a nation's historical legacy but also bolsters creativity and problem-solving skills among students. It's the whole gestalt of India's association with sky and space," the statement said.

Through this initiative, the NCERT seeks to not only promote scientific temper but also instil a sense of pride, inspiration, and an understanding of our country's achievements among the educational community and the public at large, the Ministry said, defending the reading module.

To create awareness among students about the success of Chandrayaan-3, the NCERT has prepared a special reading module and released it on October 17. In the explanation of this scientific achievement, the reading module had references to 'Vymaanika Shastra' and 'Pushpakavimana' in Indian mythology. However, this drew the ire of the several educationists, students, and rationalists. *The Hindu* had reported on the same on October 25.

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I, Narveer Mansingh Shekhawat S/O, Mansingh Ashusingh Shekhawat R/o G-14. Prime Blue Forest Appartments, Rajapalya, Hoodi, Bengaluru, 560048 have changed my name to Narveer Shekhawat.

I, VAIBHAV Kumar S/O Vinay Kumar Pandey residence of SMQ No. 881/7, Air Force Station Jalahalli West, Bengaluru– 560015, have changed my name from Vaibhav Kumar to Vaibhav Pandey vide Affidavit dated 11 Oct 2023 before Bengaluru North.

I, DINESH Prasad S/O Parmatma Nand Yadav residence of SMQ No. 897/6, Air Force Station Jalahalli West, Bengaluru- 560015, have changed my name from Dinesh Prasad to Dinesh Prasad Yadav vide Affidavit dated 12 Oct 2023 before Bengaluru North.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RANI Belani, R/at B-2, Paradise Nest, Varthur Main Road, Thubarahalli, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066, have changed my name from Rani Belani to Rani Chand Belani vide affidavit dated 25-10-2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

I, MOHAMMED Ibrahim Mulla also called as Mohd. Ibrahim Mulla Service 14691465Y resident of No.10, First Floor, South Block, Eshwari Enclave Apartment, 8th Cross, Kanakanagar, R T Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032 have changed my name from Mohammed Ibrahim Mulla also called as Mohd. Ibrahim Mulla to Mohammad Ibrahim Mulla vide affidavit dtd: 26-10-23 before Notary A. R. Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A fan takes a picture of an image of Taylor Swift as she enters a cinema to watch Taylor Swift's Eras Tour concert movie in Mexico City on October 13. REUTERS

A symphony of senses: the enchanting cinematic world of Taylor Swift

Concert films offer audiences a unique and immersive experience, often surpassing the live concert experience; the success of The Eras Tour could be a potential catalyst for a renewed interest in such films as a communal theatre experience

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

So Barbenheimer was the big ticket of 2023, not some spandex-suited meta-human fighting an overblown CGI battle in the Big Apple. Just as the bean counters seem to have figured out what draws audiences to theatres (good luck with that), comes the mass hysteria of the screening of *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*.

The film is directed by Sam Wrench, who has helmed other concert movies including *Billie Eilish: Live at the O2* earlier this year and *Lizzo: Live in Concert* (2022). The film documents Swift's The Eras Tour, her sixth concert tour and represents Swift's musical journey over 10 acts.

Path-breaking journey

Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour is path-breaking in many ways. After failing to reach an agreement with studios, Swift directly went to the theatres and signed an agreement with them.

Her announcement of the movie led to the studios scrambling to reschedule their releases. There was an Exorswift (yes it does not have the ring of Barbenheimer), which brought the release date of *The Exorcist: Believer* forward from its multi-million-dollar campaign ready date of Friday the 13th in October.

All the pundits hold the concert movie as the new gold standard for the communal theatre going experience, and it well might be. In India, there have been limited screenings of Korean boy band BTS' concert movies, which generates a kind of passion that willy-nilly sweeps one along whether one is a fan or not.

The rock concert movie gives the fan a concert experience in a theatre. Some might even say a better-than concert experience – come on are you going to say no to a 360-degree view, crisp edits, tight close ups, intimate behind the scenes sequences, good, comfortable seats, air conditioning and clean toilets?

There is an urban legend about the screening of *Woodstock* (1970), the Academy Award winning documentary about the iconic counter-culture festival, which counts Thelma Schoonmaker and Martin Scorsese among its editors.

The story goes that during the morning screenings (don't ask) of the documentary in beloved theatres in Bengaluru and Hyderabad and probably elsewhere in India, the air was thick with the smell of love, peace, music and a certain herbal something.

Concert film

Mr. Scorsese, whose historical romance, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, had its limited run release cancelled in the wake of the Swiftian juggernaut, has a long and distinguished connection with music documentaries. There is the elegant, elegiac *The Last Waltz* (1978) of The Band's farewell concert with guest performers including Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Neil Diamond, Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison, Ringo Starr, and Neil Young.

This was also 2005's Bob Dylan documentary *No Direction Home, Shine a Light* in 2008, on the Rolling Stones, on The Beatle, *George Harrison: Living in the Material World* (2011) and *Rolling Thunder Revue: A Bob Dylan Story by Martin Scorsese* (2019), which was more psychedelic ride than a story.

Going to a rock concert with the attendant headbanging, air guitaring with the leads and extreme tee shirts is an experience that true-blue rockers swear by. A concert film is the next best thing. And a film of a concert in the theatres is an even better option.

None of us will have the joy of watching angst-ridden Pink build the wall brick by brick in tune with 'Goodbye Blue Skies' or 'Comfortably Numb'.

It would be fun however to watch either Alan Parker's movie version of the album, *Pink Floyd - The Wall* (1982), with Bob Geldof playing Pink and those weird surreal animation sequences of marching hammers and risqué flowers by Gerald Scarfe or *The Wall - Live in Berlin* with Sinéad O'Connor's heart breaking rendition of '*Mother*' on the big screen in Surround Sound.

Another concert movie, which will be gorgeous on the big screen would be *Pink Floyd: Live at Pompeii*. The 1972 film by Adrian Maben, features the painfully young Roger Waters, David Gilmour, Richard Wright and Nick Mason performing psychedelic rock classics including '*Echoes*' '*Careful with That Axe*, Eugene's '*A Saucerful of Secrets*', and '*Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun*' at the eerily empty ancient amphitheatre in Pompeii. The dreamlike shots of a city frozen in time by the ashes of the Vesuvius adds to the other-wordly vibe.

There is also 1976's *The Song Remains the Same*, featuring Led Zepplin's three-nights of concerts at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Billed as a "personal and private tour of Led Zeppelin" the film is directed by Peter Clifton and Joe Massot. If you can disregard all that Arthurian *Lord of the Rings* costume drama, there is great music and performances in the film.

Fragile nature of life

From Jimmy Page shredding the double necked guitar–please ignore the sparkling, sequinned black bell bottoms to Robert Plant letting it rip on '*Immigrant Song*', blue, puff-sleeved shirt and all. And if you first heard "*From the midnight sun where the hot springs flow*" and that primordial scream in *Thor Ragnarok* you have a singular treat coming.

It was heartbreaking to watch Michael Jackson's *This Is It* (2009) in theatres, as the King of Pop softly cajoles his team to "do it with love" in preparation for his big comeback at the O2 arena.

Listening to Jackson rehearsing '*Wanna be Startin' Somethin*", with the knowledge that the tour was not meant to be owing to his passing less than 20 days before the concert on June 25, underlines the fragility and fleeting nature of life.

The massive success of *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* might signal a renewed interest in watching concert films as a communal experience in theatres.

Instead of blankets and beer, let us all head to the theatres with popcorn and sweet, sticky drinks for a stadium-level experience with Ms Swift. The song remains the same only the way we consume it changes.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

World Polio Day falls on October 24, and awareness communication is still a major part of this disease which has not yet been eliminated in the world

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1
Before it was christened Poliomyelitis or polio, what was the crippling disease known as?

QUESTION 2
It is true that polio mainly affects children below 5 years. However, it is possible for unvaccinated adults to contract polio and suffer similar debilitating effects. One famous example was a US President who reportedly caught it when he was 39. Who are we talking about?

QUESTION 3
Jonas Salk's discovery of the polio vaccine is nearly legendary, but do you know who developed the oral polio vaccine, which was behind much of the effort in achieving nearly world wide immunisation coverage?

QUESTION 4
Who holds the patent for the polio vaccine?

QUESTION 5
In what could arguably be the first celebrity endorsement for a health cause, in India, top film stars campaigned to create awareness on polio. Two of them were on top of the trade at that time, and these campaigns had a huge impact on the community, studies later showed. One of the stars was Amitabh Bachhan. Name another very prominent actor to be a brand ambassador for the polio vaccine?

Visual Question: Who is this young girl and what particular relevance has this young girl to polio? The right answer is not the simple statement that she has polio. Yes, she does, but there's a greater significance.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Against which team and in which year did Bishan Singh Bedi make his Test debut? **Ans: West Indies in 1966**
2. For which English county did he play for some seasons taking 434 wickets at an impressive average of 20.89? **Ans: Northamptonshire**
3. How many wickets did scalp in 67 Tests and who bettered his record? **Ans: 266. Kapil Dev**
4. After which Indian teammate did Bedi name his firstborn? **Ans: Sunil Gavaskar. His son was named Gavasinder**
5. Bedi once conceded an ODI because of intimidatory bowling by a pacer from the other team. **Ans: Sarfaraz Nawaz and Pakistan**
6. Bedi holds the world record for the most economical bowling figures in a 60-over ODI match. Which team was he playing against? **Ans:East Africa**
7. According to Bedi, what regular household chore was the best exercise for the shoulders and fingers to keep them flexible? **Ans: Washing clothes**
8. Which English great remarked "My idea of heaven is Ray Lindwall bowling from one end, Bishan Bedi from the other"? **Ans: Jim Laker**
Visual: Name the prestigious award Bedi is being honoured with. **Ans: C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award**
Early Birds: Varghese Joseph | Jithin K. John | Gulu Ezekiel

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

Sir, Mr. K. K. Chandrasekaran, Komanthakkal House, Karayamutham, Valapad, wants to know the meaning of 'Achilles' heel'."

" 'Achilles' heel' or the 'heel of Achilles' means 'a person's weak or most vulnerable point'. Achilles is the hero of Homer's Iliad. He was a great warrior and in the Trojan War, Achilles killed Hector and he was killed by Paris when the latter struck him in the heel which was his weakest spot. Gopal's quick temper is his Achilles' heel. Love of flattery is his Achilles' heel."

"Sir, Mr. C. Subba Rao, P.S. Nagar, Vijayanagar Colony, Hyderabad, wants to know the meaning of 'standing ovation'."

" 'Standing ovation' is 'one from an audience that rises to its feet in its enthusiasm'. An ovation is an outburst of prolonged applause. He received a standing ovation for his superb performance. When an audience stands up and applauds someone for a while, it is called a "standing ovation."

"Sir, Ms. M. Singh, Patiala, wants to know the meaning of 'streets ahead of."

"It means 'much better than', 'far superior to'. This is an informal expression used in British English. He is streets ahead of others in sound common sense. She is streets ahead of others in her concern for others. Do you know what 'streets apart' means?"

"No, sir."

"It means 'very different'. John and James are brothers. But they are streets apart in their temperament."

"Sir, Mr. S. Praveen Purushotam, Justice Sundaram Road, Nageswarapuram, Madras, wants to know the meaning of the word 'alacrity'."

" 'Alacrity' means 'promptness in response', 'cheerful readiness'. This is a formal word. He accepted my invitation to dinner with alacrity. The first 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India', the second 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man'; 'c' is pronounced 'k'; 'i' and 'y' are pronounced like the 'i' in 'pin'. Some pronounce the 'i' like the 'a' in 'India'. This is also acceptable. The stress is on the second syllable."

"Sir, Mr. V. C. Thomas Valaparampil, Theepani, Tiruvalla, wants to know whether 'activise' is used in English".

" 'Activize' is used in American English. It means 'to make active', 'activate'. Efforts are being made to activize the Grievances Cell. Occasionally British writers also use the word, but it is spelt 'activise'. But the word is not recorded in any British dictionary. You won't find it even in the second edition of the 20-volume Oxford English Dictionary published recently. You will find 'activize' in American Dictionaries." What's your good name, sir?

Walter Savage.

Published in The Hindu on October 31, 1989

Word of the day

Altercation:
noisy quarrel or confrontation

Synonyms: fight, dispute, disagreement

Usage: *A student got into an altercation with a police officer.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/altercationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɒltəˈkeɪʃən/

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Catching them young: Children taking part in the Karnataka State Football Association youth leagues in Bengaluru as part of the grassroots development initiative. The whole programme has seen enthusiastic participation from coaches and parents alike. K. MURALI KUMAR

Future-focussed football

To set right the dearth of game-ready players in the State, starting 2019, the Karnataka State Football Association, the umbrella organisation for the game, began its youth leagues programme that now sees competitions in the Under-7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 categories, with no fewer than 15 teams in each age group. **N. Sudarshan** maps the sport's changing ecosystem in Bengaluru

Nearly a decade ago, D. Vignesh, a Bengaluru boy in his mid-teens, was on the lookout for opportunities to play football in a competitive environment. He practised at the Ozone Academy. Outside of the competitions that his institute would register for, he and his group of friends did not have many games to look forward to.

It was then that he heard of The Amateur League (TAL), which started in 2014 with the aim of giving enthusiasts a platform to test their skills in an 11-versus-11 setting. Vignesh and his mates did not have a full-fledged team, but TAL slotted him in one of the many that had signed up.

"It was the first time I played 11-a-side," Vignesh recollects. "Otherwise, I had to be part of the C-division (run by the Bangalore District Football Association). But there, in each group, there were four teams, and you got just three games. Only if you qualified out of that group were there more chances." In TAL, he got 10 to 12 guaranteed matches. "It was a very professional set-up, with referees and analysis. There were corporates and semi-professional teams. I think even Ashley Westwood (former coach of the city's biggest club, Bengaluru FC) played. I understood my body better, how much load it could take, and how fit I could be."

Vignesh went on to join the Sports Authority of India and played for India at the junior level before making his debut for the senior team at the 2018 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship. In 2020-21, Vignesh was an integral part of the Mumbai City FC team that won the Indian Super League (ISL), Indian football top tier.

Wider acceptance: Prithvi Ramakrishnan, founder, Sports Paddock says there is a cultural shift in how parents see sports, and that has helped improve the the footballing ecosystem. K. MURALI KUMAR

Game-ready players

Vignesh's progression is what many budding footballers in India desire but can only dream of. When India hosted the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2017, it had a direct entry into the tournament by virtue of being the host. But to assemble the team, coaches appointed by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), Indian football's governing body, had to comb the country. There wasn't a steady pipeline of game-ready players, a feature that sets apart advanced footballing nations in Europe and South America.

It is this landscape that a few youth football leagues in Bengaluru are attempting to change. Starting in 2019, the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA), the umbrella organisation for footballing activities in the State, began its youth leagues programme that now sees competitions in the Under-7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 categories, with no fewer than 15 teams in each age group.

> The ultimate aim is to impact Indian football. We want to build a pathway where kids can join at the age of 6 or 7 and make it all the way up. We want to become a scouting platform for top ISL clubs and I-League clubs.
>
> **SARTHAK DUBEY**
> Director
> Double Pass India

Also in 2019, Double Pass India, a private entity, started its Development League (DPDL) for children under 7, 9, 11, and 13. TAL, an initiative of Sports Paddock, a city-based sports management firm, began its youth leagues this year in the U-13, U-15 and U-19 groupings.

Catchment area for players

"I used to ask the foreign coaches who were here, like David Booth (England) and Lars Sorensen (Denmark), 'Why are we lagging behind?'" recalls M. Satyanarayan, previously the general secretary of KSFA and now the deputy secretary general of AIFF. "They said, 'It's because your boys play football only when they're 15-16, and there are no good initiatives at the grassroots.' So we started these leagues to create a catchment area for young players."

Mandar Tamhane, the current CEO of ISL club NorthEast United FC but someone who spent a decade at Bengaluru FC (BFC) until January 2023, feels such leagues are vital for player development.

"You can have the best academies and coaches, but if there is no competitive environment, players cannot become professionals," he says. "If the kids do not play 40 to 50 games in a year, we will not see growth."

He compares U-7 or U-11 kids from India with those from Europe or South America. "There is not much difference. But when those kids transition to the U-13, 15 and 17 age groups, the difference suddenly becomes huge. Does that mean that we don't have good coaches and infrastructure? To some extent, yes, but not to the extent where there is a lack of competition."

Numbers game

In India, Mizoram has found considerable success by introducing football early through its 'Baby Leagues'. It helps that football is the most popular game, and the general standards are high. The sheer number of players the State provides for the national team is evidence enough that such a system works.

Non-traditional football centres like Bengaluru though rely on the AIFF grassroots programme, but here, children do not play enough games as the initial rounds are regional, and the competition is weak. Only those who progress to the national level get a handful of matches.

The structure was revamped ahead of the 2018-19 season with the introduction of a three-tier system involving sub-junior (U-13), junior, (U-15) and elite (U-17) divisions. But 2018-19 turned out to be the only full-fledged year before COVID struck, and Minerva Punjab, the U-15 champions, and Reliance Foundation Young Champs, the U-13 champions, contested just 11 and 13 ties, respectively.

It is this lacuna that the KSFA and other youth leagues in Bengaluru are looking to fill, and there are signs that the model is working. Jordan Mobin Paul, a skilful dribbler, joined Bengaluru FC's youth development back in 2018 and has since made the jump to the club's Residential Academy in Ballari at the Inspire Institute of Sport. So have two others: Devansh Chintan and Shauryaveer Verma. Paul and Chintan are from the BFC Soccer Schools, and Verma is from BOCA Academy (now Alchemy International). All three have played in the DPDL.

Impacting Indian football

"BFC, by being the main ISL club in the city, is the main destination," says Sarthak Dubey, director, Double Pass India. "BFC has actually taken about eight kids from Bangalore into their Ballari set-up, and all eight have played DPDL. We can't really take credit for their day-to-day development, but we've actually seen their journey."

More opportunities: Bappaditya Bhattacharjee, founder and director of Roots Football Club, says the number of academies has more than doubled in the last three years, ballooning upwards of 40. But the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru FC's home arena, is the only accessible natural grass turf. K. MURALI KUMAR

Dubey says, "For us, the ultimate aim is to impact Indian football. We want to build a pathway where kids can join at the age of 6 or 7 and make it all the way up. We want to become a scouting platform for top ISL and I-League clubs."

According to Prithvi Ramakrishnan, founder, Sports Paddock, there is a cultural shift in how parents see sports, and that has aided in the betterment of the footballing ecosystem. "Those who were in their 20s a decade and a half ago, who watched sports and adopted it as a way of life, are now eager that their children be part of sports," he says. "That has definitely helped raise the demand for academies." The biggest gap in the market, he feels, is that people don't have a historical record of what they've done. "At best, they can get on the letterhead of the club saying this person has participated. How did you do at the club? There is no record. So, how will anyone judge them? Our aim is to bridge this gap, to track players' progress through videos, match reports, and other helpful components."

The rise of these football leagues has also helped change the footballing demographics of Bengaluru. Earlier, players from the city were predominantly from less-privileged backgrounds. Today, the pool also draws from the wealthier classes and is representative of the city's cosmopolitan ethos. In fact, there is a firm belief that the churning will ultimately benefit local football.

In comparison with States like Kerala and Goa, very few Karnataka players play at the highest level in India, with the most notable being Vignesh (now Hyderabad FC) and Sanjeev Stalin (Mumbai City FC). If there is a pathway, starting from the academies to the youth leagues all the way up to the ISL, the region could emerge as a footballing hotbed. "Nowadays, children don't mind taking a gap year to try and make it in football professionally," says Bappaditya Bhattacharjee, founder and director of Roots Football Club. "I have been in Bangalore football for 16-17 years and the last five years have been way different. In these leagues, quality may not be high, but it helps improve players' skills, decision-making and fitness. This is how we won the Santosh Trophy in 2023 (after 54 years). When we started (our academy), we thought, 'Let's see if we can turn passion into business'. Now it's about turning players into professionals."

Infrastructure gaps

However, the cautionary note is whether the city possesses the necessary infrastructure. Bhattacharjee says the number of academies has more than doubled in the last three years, ballooning upwards of 40. But the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru FC's home arena, is the only accessible natural grass turf.

Recently, when the Indian National football team led by Sunil Chhetri won the SAFF Championship in Bengaluru, coach Igor Stimac had to limit training drills because there were only artificial turfs, and they could cause injuries. In 2017, despite having made the initial shortlist of eight host cities for the U-17 World Cup, Bengaluru missed out because it lacked infrastructure.

"We desperately need more grounds," says Bhattacharjee. "The Army has a few grass grounds, but those are inaccessible. This boom is not going to last if we don't have affordable and quality infrastructure."

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INBRIEF

27 engineers suspended for dereliction of duty

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department on Thursday suspended 27 engineers for dereliction of duty. According to the department release, engineers have been suspended for not reporting to duty in the posting they were transferred. Of the suspended engineers, five are assistant executive engineers, seven assistant engineers, and 15 junior engineers, the release said.

68 to be conferred Rajyotsava Award this year

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah suggested that the Rajyotsava Award should be bestowed upon the most deserving and meritorious people who have achieved excellence in their fields. Besides regional justice, all castes, religions, and genders should get equitable representation while selecting the awardees, he said. He was speaking at the high-level meeting of the Kannada Rajyotsava Award Selection Committee held under his chairmanship on Thursday.

A total of 68 persons are to be conferred the award this year and it was decided in the meeting to give away 10 awards to organisations on the occasion of Karnataka Sambhrama. The Chief Minister said that the number of applicants were very high for Rajyotsava award. "Our government had previously decided to give as many awards as the number of years of Karnataka unification," he said.

Face-off between Kumaraswamy and DKS escalates as JD(S) leader accuses latter of 'illegal land deals'

Former CM alleges that Shivakumar and his brother Suresh have grabbed 8 acres at Hosakerehalli village in Uttarahalli hobli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The war of words between Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy over renaming Ramanagara district as "Bengaluru South" further escalated on Thursday with the latter accusing the former of indulging in "illegal land deals" in Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor project area in Bengaluru.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also threatened to undertake indefinite fast if the name of Ramanagara district is changed.

Speaking to presspersons here on Thursday, Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that Mr. Shivakumar and his brother D.K. Suresh had grabbed a total of eight acres at Hosakerehalli village in Uttarahalli hobli, that had been notified for the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Project. Later, they entered into a joint development agreement with a private developer to construct 1,400 housing units. He claimed: "While Mr. Suresh applied for land conversion, the conversion order was issued in the name of Mr. Shivakumar."

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pointing to another case, Mr. Kumaraswamy, without referring to the brothers, said: "In a land parcel of about 900 acres held by DLF at Tavarekere on Bengaluru's outskirts, about 300 acres was owned by politicians. They have started buying land within the large parcel in the last five years." He asked: "Is this how you want to build Brand Bengaluru?"

However, when asked about his earlier statement that he would complain to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah about the BMIC land deals, he said: "They are busy with elections in the five State Assemblies. There is time. Because of illegal land deals we are asking for scrapping of Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor project."

Over the last three days, the two Vokkaliga leaders from Ramanagara district have been bickering over a statement made by Mr. Shivakumar that one day Kanakapura, the constituency that he represents, would be part of Bengaluru when real estate prices will rise to be calculated on square foot basis. Mr. Kumaraswamy had termed the move to merge Kanakapura with Bengaluru as a "real estate" motive even as Mr. Shivakumar on Wednesday mooted the idea of Bengaluru South district instead of Ramanagara to resonate with Bengaluru and its growth.

The former Chief Minister on Thursday said: "Ask Mr. Shivakumar why he did not oppose the name when the district was formed 17 years ago."

Legislature session likely to be stormy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With both Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy expressing willingness to debate the issue of Ramanagara's renaming in the Legislative Assembly, the next legislature session is likely to witness stormy business.

To the challenge thrown at him by Mr. Shivakumar for an open debate, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "I will come prepared for a discussion in the Legislative Assembly." He further challenged Magadi MLA H.C. Balakrishna to bring the Chief Minister and take an oath either at Chamundeshwari temple or Dharmasthala temple that they have not taken money for posting. In response, Mr. Shivakumar said: "I accept his challenge. Let us discuss the issue in the legislature session. Let him bring his documents and I will bring mine."

'Karnataka attracted ₹7,59,936 cr. investment'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka attracted investment project proposals worth ₹7,59,936 crore between 2018-19 and 2022-23 and the highest jump was registered in 2022-23 as the State successfully attracted ₹4,51,516 crore projects.

A study brought out on "investment, growth & development in Karnataka between 2018-19 and 2022-23" by the MSME Export Promotion Council along with the Confederation of Organic Food Producers & Marketing Agencies and released by MSME EPC chairman D.S. Rawat said as per the data available through Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy, the State received new investment proposals of ₹4,51,516.2 crore in 2022-23, ₹79,816.4 crore in 2021-22, ₹74,967.7 crore in 2020-21, ₹94,361.8 crore in 2019-20, and ₹59,273.8 crore in 2018-19.

It was noted that in 2022-23, the total outstanding projects were worth ₹16,43,466.3 crore and projects under implementation were worth ₹8,22,070.4 crore. Once the implementation of the outstanding projects was completed, the study estimated the generation of over five lakh additional jobs.

Centre to provide additional 20 lakh tons of coal per month to State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Energy Minister K.J. George on Thursday said that the Central government has agreed to provide an additional 20 lakh tons of coal per month to Karnataka amidst the ongoing power crisis in the State.

In the backdrop of the power shortfall in Karnataka, Mr. George and other senior officials from the Energy Department held several meetings with the Ministry of Power and other Central energy organisations.

In a press conference held in Delhi on Thursday, Mr. George said: "The Additional Chief Secretary had written to the Central government about the allocation of additional coal to the State to avoid power shortage in the future. They have agreed to it. We have also called new tenders for logistics to ensure continuous coal supply."

Minister of Energy K.J. George at a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday.

He also said that the Energy Department was planning to wash coal before transportation as unwashed coal results in more ash, which in turn are affecting boilers in thermal power plants. The Minister also stated that the Ministry of Power had given a positive response regarding the allocation of more power from the Central Grid to the State and increasing the allocation towards components B and C of the PM Kusum Yojana.

Mr. George also said that the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) had agreed to empanel vendors from Karnataka too under the PM Kusum scheme so that the farmers from the State can choose the vendors accordingly. He added that an app will soon be developed to help farmers with the process.

"All these measures will help battle such situations (of power shortfall) in the future. There was no addition of installed capacity to Escoms after 2018. This is the root cause of the problem in meeting the current excess power demand," Mr. George said.

The buck must stop somewhere, HC tells govt. on delay in construction of new school building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

If the State government wants to protect the right of children to education as per the Constitutional mandate, then it has to act swiftly, and no red-tapsim or passing the buck can be entertained and the buck should stop somewhere, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations as the government had not yet started constructing a new building for the government lower primary school, Agaralingana Doddi of Maddur taluk in Mandya district, even four months after the time granted by the court to complete the construction.

Giving three months more to complete the new building, the court cautioned that plea for further extension of time or recalcitrance would be viewed seriously.

The school had lost its old building to the construction of Bengaluru-Mysuru Express Highway and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had paid ₹₹66.95 lakh to the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) as compensation for land acquisition. The land, donated by the villagers, was registered in the name of the school.

The court, in April, had allowed the petition filed by SDMC seeking direction to the government to construct a new building for the school which has 25 students and was running in a temporary room, without toilets and other basic amenities for about three years.

"It is unfortunate that the State is passing the file from one table to the other despite the findings and the order passed by the court... If the State is concerned about the children, it would forthwith act and not bring back another application seeking extension or give scope to another allegation of recalcitrance," the court observed as the government has complained that the SDMC had not transferred the compensation amount for construction of the building.

The court asked the SDMC to transfer ₹73 lakh of the total ₹74.38 compensation amount along with accrued interest, to the government for taking up construction work.

Example of Japan

In its April order, the court had said that the Karnataka government should learn from Japan government, which wanted to close a railway station in a village in Hokkaido Island but kept it open for three years and operated a train at its cost to ferry one girl student to school and home.

IIMB creating leaders and changemakers too, says Draupadi Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee Foundation Week at Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore on Thursday. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, is committed to not only creating managers, but also leaders and changemakers, said Draupadi Murmu, President of India, at the inauguration of IIM Bangalore's Golden Jubilee Foundation Week on Thursday.

"The institute's vision and mission are the noblest, which will allow you to be a robust force of change and rectitude," she said. Addressing students of IIMB, she said that the premiere institute was a window to self-development, enlightenment, and discovery of their talent.

While congratulating IIMB for being a key player in addressing national challenges and driving economic growth and employment, she also said the institute was a leader in innovation and entrepreneurship through its NSRCEL, a start-up incubation centre. The President also took note of an increasing number of women enrolling for the programmes offered by IIMB.

The President flagged off the 50-hour Golden Jubilee relay walkathon on campus by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Kannada University to ink pact with U.S. firm to teach Kannada

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

As the State celebrates the golden jubilee of being renamed as 'Karnataka' from the earlier 'Mysore State', Kannada University, Hampi, is all set to strike an agreement with a U.S.-based firm to teach and popularise Kannada language in that country.

Kannada University will soon sign a memorandum of understanding with Padaantaranga Corporation, California, U.S., for imparting a diploma in Kannada language for U.S. students and its citizens. A three-month course would be offered through online classes with participation of teachers from both sides.

Kannada University Vice-Chancellor D.V. Paramashivamurthy told *The Hindu* that the Syndicate had approved the course and syllabus a few days ago. "We will soon sign the agreement with Padaantaranga Corporation, headed by its founder Guru Krishnamurthy, a Kannadiga, who had settled in the U.S. many years ago."

The Kannada University at Hampi. Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, D.V. Paramashivamurthy (inset), says the Syndicate had approved the course and the syllabus. K. MURALI KUMAR

The university will offer the certificate, printed in both Kannada and English. It will charge a fee of about ₹1,000 per student.

Mr. Paramashivamurthy said that there is a spike in the demand for learning Kannada abroad, particularly in the US these days, as many Karnataka-origin entrepreneurs, technocrats, academicians and organisations have achieved success and made a name in their respective fields. Children born to Karnataka-based parents, brought up in the U.S., have shown interest in learning their mother tongue, the V-C said.

Close to 200 students and citizens who have roots in Karnataka and U.S. nationals have evinced interest to learn Kannada through online classes. Collaboration with the U.S. firm provides an opportunity for the university to extend its reach beyond Karnataka and India, he said.

Mr. Krishamurthy, a software professional, has been promoting Kannada language in the US for many years. He has been associated with Kannada organisations based in the US and other nations.

The Kannada University, which was set up in 1991, had earlier entered into an understanding with a German university during the when B.A. Vivek Rai was the V-C.

The university had come out with more than 1,600 publications, including Karnataka Devalaya Kosha and Kannada Vishwavidyalaya Shasana Samputa, when the late M.M. Kalburgi was the Vice-Chancellor.

Located near the historical site in Hampi, the university campus 'Vidyaranya' is spread over 700 acres. Unlike other universities, which are largely confined to one district, the Kannada University has jurisdiction over the entire Karnataka, with a focus on breaking disciplinary boundaries.

However, the university has been facing a shortage of funds. The V-C requested the State government to provide adequate funds to clear pending dues as well as to provide fellowships to research scholars.

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ENQUIRY No. 124/Dy.C.E./Th.Op./CD-26/Vol-VII/O&M/GHTP/2023
Dated: 25/10/2023

Dy. Chief Engineer / Operation Circle, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work for Supply of Cooling Water Treatment, Chemicals, Erection & Commissioning of Chemical dosing System / Equipments along with O&M of the above systems of Stage-I & II, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat for one year.

For Detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 26/10/2023 from 12:00 PM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP - 89/23 **76155/12/2335/2023/29234**

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited

SL. NO.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount	Bid Submission Last Date
1. Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.				
1.1	Road ID 180 & 181 (Kamukuvilakom Road and Ankalamman Nagar)	2023_SCTLT_551497_3	Rs.3,15,84,659/-	28/10/2023
1.2	Road ID 44 (Pazhayasalai Road)	2023_SCTLT_550949_2	Rs.4,50,51,533/-	30/10/2023
1.3	Road ID 41 (Kothuval to Sabhapathi Kovil Street)	2023_SCTLT_550644_3	Rs.4,57,70,352/-	28/10/2023
1.4	Road ID 43 (Marakkada Road)	2023_SCTLT_550815_5	Rs.2,29,11,634/-	30/10/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e- mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

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This retired official has transformed swathes of dryland into forests

Mukund Rao, a retired Assistant Commissioner at the Commercial Tax Department, is determined to bring back at least parts of forests around Bengaluru and in various other districts in Karnataka

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

'Many of those students are now in their late 20s. They come to me and remember the days they spent with us and say that they are proud of the forest they have created along with us,' says Mr. Rao.

After Rajasthan, Karnataka has the second largest expanse of dryland in India, and its capital city Bengaluru is a plateau surrounded by dry regions. These areas are an undulated topography covered with granite, rocky hills and gravelly soil. With this topography, districts around Bengaluru have not just been dry for several decades, but there has been a huge fall in water levels, vegetation and wildlife too.

Seventy-year-old Mukund Rao, a retired Assistant Commissioner at the Commercial Tax Department, is determined to bring back at least parts of forests around Bengaluru and in various other districts in Karnataka.

Called "Forest Man of Karnataka" by friends and colleagues, Mr. Rao started his afforestation efforts at his hometown in Channapatna, Ramanagara district, in 2006 along with his wife Latha Rao.

The Chikkamannu Gudde which was neglected by the government of Karnataka for several decades, today has a Forest Department Office with staff and security. Many such places are turning into forests, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Rao who has been collecting seeds and planting them in various dry lands in Karnataka.

In his home town

Sharing his journey of 18 years, Mr. Rao, who famously planted 3,750 saplings of Pongemia/Honge at South Bengaluru's ISRO Layout in 1995, says that creating a forest was a childhood dream for him.

"My mother, who taught the importance of trees and protecting the environment, was my first teacher. I was very fond of the environment since childhood. The popular Kengal Anjaneya Swamy temple is just a few kilometers away from the first forest I grew. Whenever I visited the temple, I would see this dry, barren hill called Chikkamannu Gudde located a few kilometers away and always wondered how it would look if it had trees and plants. Since then, it was my dream to grow a forest there. My journey towards achieving it started in 2006 through the project Basket to Barren Land," he recalled.

Schoolchildren dibbling seeds.

"Basket to Barren Land" conceptualised by him was implemented at a minimum-cost in this region by dibbling seeds and planting saplings. The project aimed at creating a forest in a barren land by collecting seeds from various parts of the states. The project focused on planting seeds that could also bear fruits, in order to increase wildlife in the area.

Roping in the young

To bring in more transparency and environmental awareness among youngsters and improve their participation towards conservation efforts, Mr. Rao also conceived a concept called *Beejanidhi Butti* (Seed tressure box).

Under the project, students from various schools in and around Ramanagara district were made to collect seeds and drop them in the seed box placed in the school. The seeds accumulated in the box would then be dipped in a solution called *Beejamrutha* (a mixture of cow dung, cow's urine, limestone, and jaggery), a concoction developed by agriculturist Dr. Subhash Palekar for augmenting the germination rate of the seeds.

Mukund Rao

Mr. Rao also conceived a concept called *Beejanidhi Butti* (Seed tressure box)

The students would then dibble the seeds and saplings in the planned area. This project covered 4,500 acres of forest area land and 1,450 acres of dry land with the help of 1,620 students.

"Many of those students are now in their late 20's. They come to me and remember the days they spent with us and say that they are proud of the forest they have created along with us," says Mr. Rao.

After 17 years, today, the dibbled area is flourishing with diverse flora and fauna. Mr. Rao says the development of the forest area has not just increased vegetation but has brought in wildlife and an increase in water levels.

"This forest was once a barren land. Today, deer and elephants frequent this forest. The growth of the forest has also increased water levels. For many years average rainfall in this area was 450 millimeters, but since 2020 it has gone up to 650 millimeters," he said.

The journey, however, has been slow and difficult, and the initial years filled with heartaches.

Under the project, students from various schools in and around Ramanagara district were made to collect seeds and drop them in the seed box placed in the school.

A slow process

"In the first three to four years there were absolutely no results, not even a sapling. Six years after dibbling the seeds a few saplings started showing up, and gradually the forest grew. In 2016, there was still no dense forest, but the once-dry area had completely turned green, and that motivated me to start this initiative in other districts across Karnataka," Mr. Rao says.

In the Antharaganga forest area in Kolar, Mr. Rao covered 410 acres of land with the support of 240 students, sowing three lakh seeds. In the Kurki forest area, two lakh seeds were planted on 232 acres of land with the help of 210 students.

At the Veeradbhadraswamy Temple forest area from the same district, 1.20 lakh seeds were sowed over 180 acres with the support of 242 students. Similarly, at the Kallaganguru forest area in Shivamogga, 12 lakh seeds were sowed over a forest area of 800 acres.

Need to expand

Talking about the future of forests in Karnataka, Mr. Rao says, "Karnataka requires 33% of forest area. Currently the state has only 28%. I have begun my plans to cover the remaining drylands as early as possible."

"But it is also important for the State Government to follow methods of dibbling in drylands, and more initiatives like these. Schools must introduce lessons on the same and build more awareness amongst students about the importance of afforestation, wildlife, good rains and more," he suggests Mr. Rao.

Two-day Karnad festival to commemorate 100th show of Samudaya's 'Tughlaq'

The festival will have discussions, seminars and many other events, where people come and share their memories of Karnad and revisit his works

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Samudaya, a progressive amateur theatre group set up by Prasanna back 1975, is celebrating the 100th show of its popular play *Tughlaq*, written by one of India's finest playwrights, the late Girish Karnad. To commemorate the event, Samudaya is hosting a two-day Karnad festival at Ravindra Kalakshetra on October 28 and 29.

The festival starts at 3 p.m. on October 28, with the rendition of Kannada theatre songs, a discussion reminiscing the life of Karnad, screening of a documentary on the playwright by K.M. Chaitanya, and performance of one of Karnad's most loved plays *Hoovu (Flowers)*, by the troupe Hongirana, Shivamogga. The second day of the festival starts with a seminar on Karnad's works, 10.30 a.m. onward, followed by the release of the book *Rangachintana*, a conversation with senior theatre makers, by Samudaya, and the presentation of the 100th show of *Tughlaq*.

Scenes from Samudaya's 'Tughlaq'.

A turbulent life

Directed by Samkutty Pattomkary, *Tughlaq* is a play about the turbulent rule of Mohammed Bin Tughlaq. The protagonist, as portrayed in the play, had great ideas and a grand vision, but his reign was an abject failure. Tughlaq was known for his reformist ideas, one of which was shifting the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad in order to have a capital that is in the center of his province. This play covers the consequences that followed this decision. The play outlines his plot to eliminate his opponents and ends with scenes of utter chaos and misery in the kingdom and Tughlaq is being left alone, having been abandoned by those who survived him.

Shashidar Bharighat, theatre director and senior member of Samudaya, says that it is a great achievement that an amateur theatre troupe is completing hundred shows of a play. "If any amateur theatre is completing 100 shows of production, it is a great achievement. It has been 10 years since we made this production, and how the play has survived for a decade is to be appreciated. The director Samkutty Pattomkary has constructed the play very interestingly. The most important element that has helped sustain the play for 10 years is Girish Karnad's writing and the play itself, which is relatable to anyone of any generation culturally and politically."

85th birthday too

"This year is also the 85th birth anniversary of Karnad. As we complete the 100th show of Tughlaq, we want to honour and remember the late playwright. At the festival we have discussions, seminars and many other events, where people come and share their memories and instances with Karnad and revisit his work" Bharighat added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 25, 1973

Talacauvery Festival in Coorg

Mercara: Tulasankramanam, which generally falls on October 17, is a festival for the "Kodavas" (Coorgis) and an auspicious day for all Hindus. This day has a special significance at Talacauvery, from where the sacred river Cauvery starts on this Tulu Sankramanam day, it is widely believed that Cauvery is born in a pond there which is known as 'Kundike'. at the auspicious muhrtam when sun enters Tula Rasi. As the muhrtam approaches, the water from the bottom of the 'Kundalike' starts springing upto the surface. Thousands of devotees gather at the Kundike to drink the fresh waters of Cauvery.

Every year the number of pilgrims visiting Talacauvery has been increasing and this year it is estiamted that nearly half a lakh.

Suggestion to Stabilise Hybrid Jowar Output

Dharwar: A suggestion for reducing the area under jowar, with the popularisation of high-yielding hybrid varieties has been made by Dr. N.P. Patil, Director of Research, University of Agricultural Sciences. The excess area can be diverted for growing other crops like pulses, oilseeds and cotton, he says.

In a note prepared on the prospects of hybrid jowar, Dr. Patil says that a major breakthrough in the production of jowar has been achieved thanks to the release of five new varieties of hybrids. CSH-1, CHS-2, CSH-3, CSH-4 and CSH-5. The CSH 1 which was released as early as in 1964, is capable of giving an average yield ranging from 40 to 48 quintals per hectare.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

History of Surpur Samsthan

Surpur Samsthan was a feudatory state ruled by Nayaks (Bedas). Nayaks ruled the territories of Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgir and Raichur districts the under suzerainty of Vijayanagara, Bijapur Sultanate and Nizam of Hyderabad. Known for their bravery the Nayaks had fought and defeated the army of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb which had attacked the Bijapur Sultanate in 1705.

Hero of First War of Independence

Raja Venkatappa Nayak, the last king of Surpur State, actively participated in the First War of Independence of 1857. Though in small numbers, Surpur soldiers, fought a heroic battle against the massive British army. Surpur fell to the British in 1858. Raja Venkatappa Nayak was captured in Hyderabad and later sentenced to life imprisonment.

Basava Sagar dam and paddy fields

Basava Sagar dam, also known as Narayanpura dam, is built across River Krishna near Narayanpur in Yadgir district. With a storage capacity of 37.965 tmcft, it is a major source of water for irrigation for both Yadgir and Raichur districts. Farmers in the command area of this important source that stores water from Krishna River grow paddy.

Yadgir Fort developed by many

Yadgir Fort is one of the big hill forts in the state of Karnataka. It is built taking advantage of a steep slope. Built by the Kalyani Chalukya rulers, the fort was later fortified and developed by many other rulers in the later period, especially during the rule Bahmani Sultanate. The fort has temples and other historical structures on its precincts.

Carved out of Gulbarga district

The cabinet meeting held at Gulbarga on 26 September, 2008, resolved to carve out Yadgir district from Kalaburagi district, which was then called Gulbarga. Accordingly, the Government issued a Gazette Notification declaring Yadgiri as a 30th district of Karnataka on 26.12.2009. Yadgiri district came into existence with effect from 30.12.2009.

Meadows Taylor: An almost-local British officer of Surpur

It was during turbulent times in the 1840s that the Nizam of Hyderabad appointed Philip Meadows Taylor as his political agent and sent him to Surpur. The officer, who was also a writer, painter, and historian, left a legacy as a man of empathy for the locals

Taylor's Seat on the top of a hill range surrounding the historic Surpur town.

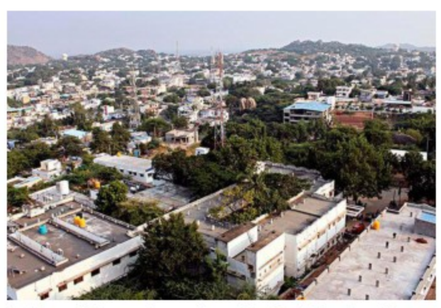
Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

It was in the early 1840s. Uncertainty loomed over Surpur, a small feudatory ruled by Nayaks (Bedas) under the suzerainty of the Nizam of Hyderabad. On the one hand, the province was in financial crisis owing to the huge amount of money paid to the Nizam government. On the other hand, the in-fighting for power had intensified following the death of Raja Krishnappa Nayak, the ruler of Surpur, in 1841.

When Raja Krishnappa Nayak died, his son Venkatappa Nayak was just seven. Though widow Rani Eshwaramma took over the reins, Raja Krishnappa Nayak's younger brother Pidda Nayak was trying to capture power and the queen was struggling hard to retain power. It was at this turbulent time that the Nizam of Hyderabad appointed Philip Meadows Taylor as his political agent and sent him to Surpur.

Little formal education

Born in 1808 in England's Liverpool as the eldest of five sons, Philip Meadows Taylor had little formal education. In 1823, Taylor's family circumstances forced him to drop out of school to work as a clerk for West India merchants operating out of Liverpool. He could not continue in the job for a long time. Later, Taylor's father made the acquaintance of a Bombay merchant named Baxter, who agreed to take Taylor as an assistant.



A view of Surpur town from Taylor's Seat on the top of a hill range.

Talyor came to India at the age of 16 to work at Baxter's small retail shop. Later, he joined the army of Hyderabad. His dedication, hard work, and ability to associate with the local people and learn local languages gave him better and more challenging positions in Hyderabad State. He held such posts as Superintendent of Bazaars and Assistant Superintendent of Police. Taylor has narrated his experiences of those years in his autobiography, *The Story of My Life*.

The entry of Talyor in Surpur in 1841 as a political agent of Nizam of Hyderabad turned out to be crucial in the history of Supur principality as Taylor not only doused the crisis and restored stability and order but also served the state as an efficient and pro-people administrator for next 12 years until Raja Venkatappa Nayak ascended the throne in 1853 at the age of 19 years.

Many initiatives

In the period of 12 years, besides quelling rebellion, Taylor took many measures to improve the administration, especially in the areas of revenue, police, education, judiciary and agriculture.

Taylor built many tanks across Surpur region under Nayak's control that covered parts of present-day Bidar, Gulbarga, Yadgir and Raichur districts and provided irrigation facilities to the farmers. Because of the tanks he built at Kachaknur, Bohnal, Sirwal and Jewargi, farmers began cultivating paddy in large tracts of land in the area. He was the man who introduced and encouraged cotton cultivation in the region. Raichur, later, became Asia's second-largest cotton market because of Taylor's encouragement for cotton cultivation in the region. He started many schools. He offered help to people who were hit by drought. He was so popular with his people-friendly administration that he was fondly called "Mahadev Baba" by local people.

Taylor's residence, which is now called Taylor's Manzil, built out of his own funds on the top of a granite hill around Surpur town, demonstrates his taste and aesthetic sense. The Bungalow continues to amuse visitors with its unique architectural style and engineering techniques. There are four rooms and as many as 27 doors in the Bungalow. When any door of the building is closed or opened, all the doors shake.

Just opposite to it is the rock top where Taylor used to sit and watch Surpur, the capital of Surpur Samsthan. From the Taylor's Seat, as it is known these days, the entire Surpur town, surrounded by the rocky hill range, is visible.

A painter and writer too

Meadows Taylor was also a painter, photographer, writer, historian and more. He is regarded one of the earliest hobby archaeologists of India who put Gulbarga on the global map of archaeology by discovering the megalithic settlements in Jewargi, Andola, Chikkanahalli, Kollur and other places. His archaeological discoveries were recognised by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which paid tribute to Taylor in its *The Story of Indian Archaeology*, 1784-1947 by Sourindranath Roy.

Taylor was a writer too. His novels, namely, *Confessions of a Thug, Tipoo Sultan, Tara, Ralph Darnel, Seetha* and *A Nobel Queen*, give a vivid picture of Indian culture to the West. His autobiography was edited and published in 1878 by his daughter posthumously. Meadows Taylor had a great interest in drawing. His sketches of Charminar, Bidar Fort and other monuments are widely appreciated.

In 1832, Meadows Taylor married Mary Palmer, Eurasian granddaughter of General William Palmer who was the first military secretary to Warren Hastings, the British colonial administrator who, along with Robert Clive, was credited with laying the foundation of the British Empire in India. William Palmer later served as East India Company's Resident at Hyderabad. It is said that he built the magnificent Bungalow on the top of a hill range around Surpur, which is popularly known as Taylor's Manzil, for his ailing wife Mary Palmer as she needed a peaceful place to spend her last days. She died in 1844 at the age of 36. She was buried at the colonial cemetery near Lingasugur in Raichur district. Her tomb is still maintained by the local civic administration.

In 2012, Alberto Taylor, a dentist in California and the great-grandson of Meadows Taylor visited Surpur. "I don't feel like a tourist in a new country. I can feel the connection between me and the people of this region," he had said.

In his letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Yadgir, Alberto Taylor recalled the contributions of his great-grandfather to the region and appreciated the district administration for maintaining Taylor's Manzil. He also drew the attention of the administration towards the poorly maintained road to Bohnal village where Meadows Taylor had built a tank and the pathetic state of the guest house that Taylor built there.

Raja Venkatappa Nayak

After Raja Venkatappa Nayak took over the charge as the ruler of Surpur in 1853, Meadows Taylor left Surpur. Trained under Meadows Taylor, Raja Venkatappa Nayak grew into a good ruler. It is said that Meadows Taylor taught English and other streams of knowledge to Raja Venkatappa Nayak.

A historical pond on the top of a hill range surrounding the Surpur town.

When the First War of Independence broke out in 1857, Raja Venkatappa Nayak joined hands with the rebel leaders such as Peshwa Nanasaheb who challenged the British. His soldiers attacked the British army near Surpur on February 7, 1858, and killed many soldiers in the British army.

The next day, the Surpur fort was attacked by the British army. A huge army under the leadership of Colonel Hues also arrived from Madras. Since Surpur did not have a big army and firepower, it could not withstand the aggression of a massive British army. Raja Venkatappa Nayak managed to escape from the Surpur fort and reached Hyderabad seeking help from the Salar Jung family, the nobles under Nizams. However, he was captured and handed over to the British. He was later tried and sentenced to capital punishment which was later commuted to life imprisonment.

When Meadows Taylor met Raja Venkatappa Nayak in the jail, the latter reportedly said, "I am not a coward. If I am sentenced to death, I must not be hanged like a criminal, but killed at the mouth of a cannon."

"Raja Venkatappa Nayak died in mysterious circumstances. He was found dead with bullet injuries. Some said it was suicide and others said that the British shot him dead. But his body was not brought back to Surpur. Nobody knows where he was buried," says Bhaskar Rao Mudbool, a lawyer from Shahapur who studied the history of Surpur and the contributions of Meadows Taylor.

"Many monuments in Surpur are destroyed as they were not protected. Taylor Manzil will also meet a similar fate if the administration does not have a proper plan to protect it. If it is turned into a museum and library, which would shed light on Surpur history, it would be helpful to researchers to know the region in the 19th century," Mudbool says.

BRS cautions farmers to be wary of Cong.

Telangana Ministers respond after Congress leaders urged the Election Commission to stop the disbursement of financial aid to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme; TPCC chief demands that the funds earmarked for beneficiaries under welfare schemes be released by November 2

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

After the Telangana Congress leaders went to the Election Commission of India (EC) urging it to stop the disbursement of Rythu Bandhu financial aid till the election to the Assembly was over, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) described the move as a reflection of the Congress's anti-farmer attitude.

BRS working president and IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao and Health Minister T. Harish Rao said Congress once again proved itself as a villain of the farmers and mocked that the party may soon seek to stop electricity and drinking water supply as well, citing the Model Code of Conduct.

Taking to 'X' (formerly Twitter), Mr. Rama Rao said the farmers will give a fitting reply to the Congress for trying to stop Rythu Bandhu scheme benefits, and urged the people to stand up against the Congress's stance on the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

The Minister said the farmers of Karnataka were now repenting for voting for the Congress as it could not fulfil the promises made before the election.

At a press conference here on Thursday, Mr. Harish Rao said the anti-farmer attitude of the Congress was once again in the open and the farmers were noticing how the Congress leaders were trying to suppress the schemes meant for them. He said the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A. Revanth Reddy had already announced just three hours of power supply to the agriculture services and their complaint with the EC would deprive the farmers of financial assistance for the Yasangi season.

Tough fight: K.T. Rama Rao, and Revanth Reddy

He said the BRS had credited ₹75,000 crore into farmers' accounts in 11 instalments. Now due to the Congress's complaint, farmers may be denied assistance this season.

'Deposit money'

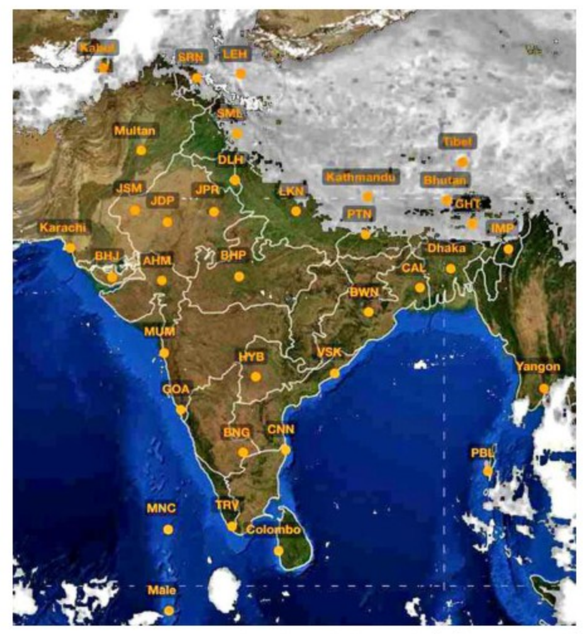
Meanwhile, Mr. Revanth Reddy has demanded that all the money to be extended to beneficiaries under various welfare schemes, including Rythu Bandhu, be released by November 2, 2023. The Telangana Assembly election will be held on November 30.

Speaking to presspersons in New Delhi on Thursday, he said the party had approached the EC to ensure that the welfare money was deposited to beneficiaries before November as Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao may delay the release of money. He saw the possibility of the State government stopping funds to blame the Congress.

"We are demanding conduct of elections in a fair manner. However, the government is objecting to this and spreading rumours about Congress," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	23.4	Kozhikode	—	34.5	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	36.7	21.5	Kurnool	—	35.6	20.7
Aizawl	3	30.0	17.0	Lucknow	—	32.4	18.3
Allahabad	—	33.5	18.8	Madurai	0.1	34.2	24.1
Bengaluru	—	30.8	18.4	Mangaluru	—	32.8	24.0
Bhopal	—	32.8	17.0	Mumbai	—	36.1	22.4
Bhubaneswar	—	32.6	23.6	Mysuru	—	32.0	24.2
Chandigarh	—	31.4	15.0	New Delhi	—	31.8	15.8
Chennai	—	33.3	24.8	Patna	—	32.1	19.3
Coimbatore	—	33.2	23.6	Port Blair	—	31.5	24.5
Dehradun	—	30.7	13.6	Puducherry	—	34.0	25.5
Gangtok	—	20.8	12.5	Pune	—	32.2	18.8
Goa	—	34.6	22.7	Raipur	—	32.2	19.3
Guwahati	—	32.9	21.5	Ranchi	—	29.8	18.6
Hubballi	—	34.0	18.0	Shillong	8	20.6	12.9
Hyderabad	—	31.7	17.7	Shimla	—	22.0	11.4
Imphal	7	28.2	18.7	Srinagar	—	21.0	3.7
Jaipur	—	32.1	19.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.8	24.7
Kochi	—	31.6	26.0	Tiruchi	—	33.5	24.4
Kohima	8	19.1	12.0	Vijayawada	—	33.4	22.0
Kolkata	—	32.7	24.4	Visakhapatnam	—	33.0	25.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	5	23	309	240	
Bengaluru	8	42	17	129	150	
Chennai	6	22	56	183	136	
Delhi	15	89	77	321	222	
Hyderabad	10	9	12	172	145	
Kolkata	45	45	27	96	99	
Lucknow	7	33	27	202	154	
Mumbai	24	110	28	209	206	
Pune	—	20	36	235	148	
Visakhapatnam	8	39	47	116	125	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hanumangarh, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 342 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'T.N. Governor inciting hatred against govt.'

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUKOTTAI/CHENNAI

Condemning the hurling of a petrol bomb near the Raj Bhavan, the office-cum-residence of Governor R.N. Ravi, Tamil Nadu Law Minister S. Regupathy on Thursday said the DMK government would not allow any untoward incident to take place in the State as it would only bring the government into disrepute.

Further, he accused the Governor of inciting hatred against the government and the people of the State.

Meanwhile, a day after a person was nabbed in connection with the attack, the Raj Bhavan said in a social media post that the police "did not register a Raj Bhavan complaint on [the] attack".

S. Regupathy, Law Minister

"[The police] *suo motu* diluted the attack as an act of simple vandalism and, in a hurry, got the arrested accused remanded in jail at midnight, waking up the magistrate and preventing a detailed interrogation which could expose those behind the attack," it said.

It went on to state that a "fair investigation was killed before it began".

Law and order

Interacting with journalists in Pudukottai, Mr. Regupathy said it was wrong to say that there was a lack of security at the Raj Bhavan. Full-scale security had been provided by the State government to the Raj Bhavan, and Wednesday's incident took place outside the premises. The DMK government would not commit any error in maintaining and protecting law and order, he said.

Replying to a query, he said the State government had taken immediate action on the petrol bomb attack by arresting the accused. The Minister maintained that law and order was not affected due to the incident. He felt strongly that the attack could have been an act of conspiracy to bring the DMK government into disrepute. The accused was arrested and was being questioned. Further investigation would throw more light on the attack, he said.

Mr. Regupathy alleged that the "Honourable Governor" was the first person in Tamil Nadu to consistently incite hatred against the DMK government and the people of the State.

Minimum wages issue: Govt. urged to challenge HC order

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the light of Karnataka High Court directing the State government to follow the Supreme Court guidelines to fix the minimum wages to scheduled employment in the State, the trade and industry bodies have urged the government to go on an appeal against the order and have sought a meeting with the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to discuss the issue.

While the State government notified a wage increase between 5% and 10% for 34 scheduled employments without undertaking ground survey to assess the present-day prices, the High Court asked the government to recalculate the minimum wages based on the guidelines set in a landmark judgement of the Supreme Court in 1992. It has directed the government to recalculate wages and notify them within two months. There are 105 scheduled employments in the State covering about 1.7 crore workers.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ–2, (ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಪಿ) ಮತ್ತು
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ನಂ. 14/3, ಸಿ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಹರ್ಷಿ
ಅರವಿಂದ ಭವನ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001.
ಸಂ: ಕೆಐಎಡಿಬಿ/ಎಲ್‌ಎಕ್ಯೂ/3831/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.10.2023

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆದಿನಾರಾಯಣಹೊಸಹಳ್ಳಿ, ನಾಗದೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊನಘಟ್ಟ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 971–24½ ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಕೆಐಎಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1966 ಕಲಂ 28(4)ರಂತೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಐ 17 ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಕ್ಯೂ (ಇ) 2022 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2023 ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕ 03.03.2023ರನ್ವಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗಾಗಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಐಎಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ 29(2)ರನ್ವಯ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 30.10.2023 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಅನ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.11.2023ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂದರ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

"ಕೃಷ್ಣೋದಯ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಮಂಟಪ", ಚನ್ನಕೆಂಪನಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕುಂದಾಣ ಸರ್ಕಲ್, ಚಪ್ಪರದಕಲ್ಲು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಆದುದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ 03.11.2023ರಂದು** ನಡೆಯುವ ಭೂದರ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಹಾಜರಾಗಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ–2, ಕೆಐಎಡಿಬಿ(ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಪಿ) ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

KARNATAKA NEERAVRI NIGAM LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Office of the, Executive Engineer KNNL, No.5
Canal Division, Yermarus Camp. Tq:Dist:Raichur.
No. EE/KNNL/No-5/C.D/Q.Consultancy/2023-24/813 Date: 20.10.2023

QUOTATION FOR CONSULTANCY

This office has invited short-term quotation from Registered Consultants for preparation of estimate for proposed work.

Name of work: " Consultancy work for investigation investigation, surveying, design and preparation of Detailed Estimate for Modernization of RDS Distributary from 01 to 12 (14 No's) and RDS Main Canal Gates (5 No's) Rever Sluice Gates (3 No's) Raichur Taluk & District."

Intended consultants to submit the quotations excluding GST and other taxes to this office on or before 06.11.2023. The price list envelops should be clearly stamped with the "quotation". The quotations will be opened undersigned office on 07.11.2023 at 5.00PM This officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the Quotation rates without assigning any reason whatsoever. Further information can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL, No.5 Canal Division Yermarus Camp.
DIP/RCR/190/KSMC&A/187/2023-24

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Sl No.	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2395/2023-24 Dated: 18.10.2023 (Reserved for ST Category)	1.	₹ 20,04,793/- / ₹ 25,000/-	10.11.2023 upto 4:00 pm	15.11.2023 after 3:00 pm
2.		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2395/2023-24 Dated: 18.10.2023	2.	₹ 28,80,022/- / ₹ 57,700/-		
3.			3.	₹ 45,01,085/- / ₹ 90,100/-		
4.			4.	₹ 52,35,242/- / ₹ 1,05,000/-		
5.			5.	₹ 14,06,032/- / ₹ 35,200/-		
6.			6.	₹ 19,40,171/- / ₹ 48,600/-		
7.		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB /2395/2023-24 Dated: 18.10.2023 (Reserved for SC Category)	7.	₹ 16,76,828/- / ₹ 21,000/-		

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/1862/2023-24

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (South-West-1)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mr. K.Balakrishna Reddy, S/o Bala Reddy would like to inform the general public that i have misplaced **my Original Sale Deed Document No. Identification No.: 6460 /2007 registered at Sub Registrar Kelamangalam & General Power of Attorney Document No. Identification Nos.: 310/2010 and 550/ 2010**

Schedule Properties in Byramangalam Village of Denkanikottai Taluk, attached to Kelamangalam Sub - registration district, Krishnagiri Registration district of Krishnagiri district, the lands bearing ;

1. Sy.No: 915/B, Dry Extent Ac.7.70 cents, Asst. Rs.3.39 np., now sub-divided as

a. Sy.No: 915/B9, Dry an extent of 0.29.5 Hec.,

b. Sy.No: 915/B10, Dry an extent of 0.37.5 Hec, out of this an extent of Ac.0.21 cents,

2. Sy.No: 915/A, Dry extent Ac.0.55 cents, Asst. Rs.0.24 np., now sub - divided as:

a. Sy.No: 915/A1, dry an extent of 0.03.5 Hec.

b. Sy.No: 915/A2, Dry an extent of 0.19.0 Hec.

In case any one finds the document, the same may be returned to the under signed.

K.Balakrishna Reddy
18, 24th Main, 2nd Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore - 560078,
Mobile : 9341745559

Renewed risks

Fresh global turmoil clouds the economic outlook for rest of 2023-24

On October 6, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stuck to its 6.5% GDP growth projection for the year, with risks from geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, volatile financial markets and an uneven monsoon, evenly balanced out by strengthening domestic demand. There was a belief that a period of heightened uncertainties was ebbing but as the central bank Governor signalled last Friday, new uncertainties have emerged over the fortnight since. The Israel-Hamas conflict that erupted a day after the monetary policy review has widened, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has flagged worries about implications on global food, fuel and fertilizer supplies. Given India's dependence on fuel and fertilizer imports, disruptions or price spikes could hurt the macro-economic framework, even if the government refrains from passing on higher prices to consumers and farmers in the election season. The RBI chief also pointed to rising U.S. bond yields, which hit a 16-year high of 5% this week, mixed data points and signals from central banks around the world, as the new unknowns – even as known unknowns such as financial market turmoil – have got more pronounced. A glimpse of this anxiety was visible this week, with the sharpest sell-off on Indian bourses since July.

There is no certainty that the RBI would still uphold its 'evenly balanced' outlook towards the risks to growth. However, the Finance Ministry, while acknowledging that global uncertainties have compounded, seems largely sanguine for now in its outlook for the economy. Its monthly economic review released on Monday asserts that growth "remains on track", inflation is easing after a "temporary" seasonal surge in July-August, consumption demand is strengthening and investment demand is "also firming up". On the "imminent fears" of rising crude oil prices, it noted that July-September quarter prices were still "way lower" than the $109.5 and $97.9 averages in the first and second quarter of 2022-23. The weak foreign trade picture is expected to recover and industrial job creation prospects are high for the next two quarters, while higher demand for housing and vehicle loans reflects bolstered confidence levels in households, it added. India's macro fundamentals may well hold up through the latest global storm, but the government would do well to drill a little deeper into consumption and hiring trends. The last quarter has seen a sharp slump in small car sales, consumer non-durables producers reporting weak rural demand and IT firms scaling down growth and hiring hopes. There is still much to be done to correct an uneven recovery, which would eventually hamper a broader investment revival.

Internecine squabbling

The Republicans are a deeply polarised party after the advent of Trump

After a prolonged spell of costly indecisiveness, the U.S. House of Representatives has finally elected a Speaker, Representative Mike Johnson of Louisiana. Recent weeks have seen convulsions rock the House as Republicans struggled to find a consensus candidate to lead the majority in the Lower Chamber of Congress. After the political debacle of the ouster of the previous Speaker Kevin McCarthy on October 3, laying bare the deeply factionalised landscape of the House Republican caucus, several party notables tried and failed to secure the confidence of the House majority in their bids for the top post. Initially, multiple closed-door meetings failed to produce a consensus candidate. Heavyweights including Tom Emmer of Minnesota, Jim Jordan of Ohio and Steve Scalise of Louisiana, were unable to secure the gavel by cornering the minimum of 217 votes, despite being nominated to the role. While Mr. Johnson has now emerged as the Speaker, second in line for the U.S. presidency, after much confabulations and voting, the politically messy process of his win signals serious deadlock in the party and the Chamber.

In a sense, the intra-party fractures that impeded the House Republican caucus from taking forward funding bills relating to the U.S. federal government, Israel and Ukraine, reflect the contradictions between the Congressmen who support and are supported by former President Donald Trump on the one hand, and those who are not in that category, on the other. Shortly after Mr. Emmer pulled out of the contest, Mr. Trump described him on social media as a "Rino", or 'Republican in Name Only', who "never respected the power of a Trump endorsement or the breadth and scope of MAGA", and that it would be "a tragic mistake" to support him. Trump acolytes in the House took their cue from the 45th President, it appears, and they are a sizeable cohort. Looking beyond the political embarrassment of this rupture, it portends trouble for the Grand Old Party in the 2024 presidential election. It certainly does appear at this time as though Mr. Trump will win his party's nomination by a considerable margin. However, many "traditional" conservatives do not side with him on hot button issues, including criminal charges that he faces, for example for obstructing justice in seeking to delegitimise the results of the 2020 presidential election. If the House's Speaker saga indicates anything, it is that the dissonances within the Republican Party will sooner or later be manifested in popular anger among conservatives, and that might be an even greater barrier to Mr. Trump's political ambitions than the opposition he faces from Democrats.

The voice of a Gaza under occupation

Hamid Ansari

is the former Vice President of India, 2007-2017

While the conflict rages in Gaza amidst allegations and counter-allegations, and in the midst of unabashed American partiality, it is relevant to recall what the senior leader of Hamas, Mousa Abu Marzouk, told *The New Yorker* magazine (October 13) about the political approach: "We rolled down all of the pathways to get some of our rights – not all of them. We knocked on the door of reconciliation and we weren't allowed in. We knocked on the door of elections and we were deprived of them. We knocked on the door of a political document for the whole world – we said, 'We want peace, but give us some of our rights' – but they didn't let us in." He added, "We tried every path. We didn't find one political path to take us out of this morass and free us from occupation... We spoke to the Americans, Europeans and all of the people in order to achieve the Palestinian people's rights, without any benefit. Nothing has been achieved towards the idea of two states, from 1948 until today. We are a people under occupation."

Abu Marzouk added that in earlier conflicts, the Israelis waged wars outside their borders; "This is the first time that the Palestinians are crossing the borders and fighting in their historic land." The conflict has shattered the aura of invincibility.

Tel Aviv's response

The Israeli response to the Hamas attack has been to order the evacuation of the northern half of Gaza, to enforce it by a blockade, by the cutting off of food, water and electricity as also by the massing of 3,00,000 troops on Gaza's border. The objective presumably is to occupy the northern zone and expand space for new settlements. The Palestinians see it as such and recall the manner in which the state of Israel came into existence on May 14, 1948 when 6,56,000 Arabs inhabited of the Mandate Territory of Palestine were made to flee by what the historian, Paul Johnson, called (*History of the Jews*, p.521) as 'the scientific use of terror to break the will of liberal rulers'. Palestinians were thus made to pay for the genocide of Jews in Europe which was committed by Germans, not Arabs.

There may be merit in the claim from Gaza — of a knocking on every door and trying every path, for peace, rights and freedom, but to no avail

Nor should the ideological motivation, particularly of the present Israeli leadership, be overlooked. It has repeatedly equated the Palestinians with the Nazis who should be eliminated. This is a reiteration of what Vladimir Jabotinsky, a respected predecessor in right-wing Zionism said in 1923: Zionism 'is a colonizing adventure and therefore it stands or falls by the question of armed force.' He predicted that the Palestinian will not leave his land unless confronted 'by a wall of Jewish bayonets so that a new race, proud, generous and cruel, shall arise.'

The reality of this perception has been reinforced by decades of connivance by world powers. Innumerable United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions have remained unimplemented. Each reiterated the earlier ones and some even indicated new goalposts; each sought to explain away the guilt of the culprits. Resolution 2334 of December 2016, for instance, outlawed all settlement activity and reiterated the desirability of implementing the two-state solution.

A departure from the UNSC route was attempted in September 2020 by the Abraham Accords seeking, piously, to 'end radicalization and conflict' while ignoring the causes of both. An expectation of expanding the ambit of both has not materialised.

No more invincible

Israel's objectives for the Gaza operation have been officially identified with precision: toppling Hamas and destroying its military capabilities; eliminating the threat of terrorism emanating from the Gaza strip; exerting maximum pressure to find a solution to the hostage issue, and defending the borders of the state and its citizens. These would require going into Gaza. Informed Arab columnists like Abdel Bari Atwan are of the opinion that the most recent fighting has deprived Israel of its two most effective weapons: its scariness and its deterrent power. Such a move, he says, would be more far reaching than Ehud Olmert's foray and Ariel Sharon's venture.

The response of the United States and some of its allies to the present crisis raises the question of motivation. Did they know more about the chink in Israel's armour? Did they apprehend the implications of conflict going beyond Gaza and its adverse impact on Israel?

Pertinent questions

The prognosis of Thomas L. Friedman in *The New York Times* of October 16, 2023 sheds light on the prospects: "If Israel goes into Gaza now, it will blow up the Abraham Accords, further destabilize two of America's most important allies (Egypt and Jordan) and make normalization with Saudi Arabia impossible – huge strategic setbacks. It will also enable Hamas to really fire up the West Bank and get a shepherd's war going there between Jewish settlers and Palestinians. Altogether, it will play directly into Iran's strategy of sucking Israel into imperial overstretch and in that way weakening the Jewish democracy from within."

Friedman adds: "While Biden is right to support Israel, he must get clear answers from Netanyahu now, before it's too late: Once Israel topples Hamas, who will govern Gaza? If Israel intends to govern Gaza, will it pay for the rebuilding of the infrastructure that it is destroying? And if not, who will? How long does Israel intend to allow the humanitarian crisis to unfold in southern Gaza? Does Israel plan to build settlements in Gaza? Does Israel respect Gaza's borders? Does it have a plan to help rebuild the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank?"

U.S. President Joe Biden was emphatic in his condemnation of Hamas for the responsibility of the hospital attack. Its timing is yet to be established and Professor Anthony H. Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies is of the opinion that the only way to convince those who do not take sides is to establish some form of international investigation that is led by nations or individuals who are credible.

Clearly, there may be merit in Abu Marzouk's claim. Hasty resort to partiality may not be the option.

Manipur needs a platform for 'samvad'

Bhagat Oinam

is Chairperson of the Special Centre for the Study of North East India (SCSNEI) at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

A unique feature of India's intellectual tradition is that the point of view of the opponent (*purvapaksha*) must be taken seriously – not because one loves the opponent but because one needs to understand the opponent better if one has to win an argument. That is how the tradition of *samvad* (dialogue) constitutes a major component of this long-standing tradition. The opposite is coercion and violence, which are outcomes of a monologue possessed by those who 'own' the truth! The latter as a trend can be witnessed all over the globe, across histories. Today it is found among conflicting nationalities, religious communities or ethnicity – whether it is in Israel, Nuh, or Manipur.

As Gaza bleeds, there is no objective statement of truth that can explain the large-scale violence and human tragedy that is engulfing the country. While some find fault with the initial point of ignition by Hamas, there are others who are worried about the quantum of destruction that the Palestinians have faced. Either we are carried away by the immediate turn of events, or faced with the challenge of finding the structural cause of the entire Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Similar is the case with Manipur, though the quantum of violence is far less.

The crisis in the State

The Manipur crisis has been running for over five months now, and we are nowhere close to the truth of how and why the violence happened, and which is still continuing. While many civil society bodies on either side are carried away by the violent turn of events, there are others stuck with propounding their larger narratives and demolishing the narratives of the opponent. Each of the warring groups seems to possess contradicting truths. The challenge is equally tough for the third party as it seems to get influenced by one or the other warring groups. The Editors Guild of India faced stiff resistance from the Meiteis – the allegation is that the Guild has put out a biased report that favours the Kukis. Subsequently, the Guild had to seek the Supreme Court of India's help to neutralise the first information reports filed by the Manipur Police. Since then, the pace of all other fact-finding committees seems to have slowed down, with the larger picture of truth still to materialise.

The crisis in the State is far from over with many complex narratives; there is a need to arrive at a negotiated truth

There have been a few truths about some specific cases. Police investigation under the Unified Command structure has cracked cases related to the parading of two Kuki women who were stripped, the kidnapping and killing of two Meitei students, the arrest of former cadre of the banned People's Liberation Army (PLA) of Manipur, followed by the arrest of a Kuki militant following a bomb blast at multi-ethnic Kwakta village. Several Manipur-based drug traffickers have been arrested in Mizoram, Assam, Tripura and Delhi, pointing to the spread of illegal activities and the large-scale involvement of people in the trade. The arrests show that the civil administration is slowly stirring back to life.

The hardliners and their politics

However, the crisis is far from over. Most worrisome is the politics driven by the hardliners, whose narratives are to show the opposite camps as being the perpetrators of violence. These narratives often project the protagonists as the victim, and that violent acts they resorted to were out of self-defence. Thus, violence gets justified in each of these narratives. Unfortunately, humanity takes a back seat.

While the State will take its own course to identify the truths behind the magnified stories, the crisis is not altogether about the state-citizen relationship. Had this been the case, it would have been just a law-and-order issue. But the fact is there were instances where armed militants have inspired members of their affiliated community to call themselves as a 'people' *vis-à-vis* an 'enemy' in the other community. The torching of houses, cold-blooded killings, and the inhuman treatment of women and children are influenced by the presence of armed militants and a false sense of impunity among some people. This truth about ethnic conflict is one among many narratives. There are larger narratives such as an imagined Kuki nation, insurgency across the border, illegal migration, and narco-terrorism. It is narco-terrorism that has turned out to be the real threat to the Indian state.

Focus on its bonds

Amidst these complex narratives, there is a need to arrive at a holistic truth; a truth that preferably must be agreed by all. There is not only a need for dialogue but also a verification of the facts claimed in these narratives. The search for a holistic truth cannot be done without the presence of the contending parties. The narratives of the hardliners are extremely problematic for these are shaped by the politics of exclusion, which allows little room for dialogue. On the contrary, co-existence, the matrimonial bonds, and spatial sharing among the ethnic communities are the realities of life in the State. People seem to forget the long existing multicultural life of Manipur while having been dragged into the violent politics of the present. Dialogue does not necessarily mean political agreement. Rather, it is about cross-checking each other's claims and counter-claims. Negotiated truth is possible when the contesting parties recognise amiability in arguments, and show an openness to the outcome.

India's intellectual tradition of *samvad* is an invitation to an openness with truth. This requires enormous moral strength in the practitioners of a dialogue. And the result can be peaceful and long lasting. It is an attempt to understand the other's point of view and politics better. It is also about freeing oneself to a committed truth, letting it open to scrutiny by the other party. Manipur needs a platform for *samvad*, however small, amidst the violence and the mistrust.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Talk peace, ensure peace

It appears that the comity of nations and the United Nations have completely and conveniently forgotten the deleterious repercussions that followed the sudden attack by Russia on Ukraine — a war which is still dragging on.

The world is also having to deal with a new issue — Israel closing in on Palestine, which has brought in its trail, dangerous repercussions. It is the bounden duty on the part of the UN to try and usher in peace in both instances.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

NCERT panel suggestion

After the disappearance of key science topics from school textbooks some time ago, the 'suggestion' by a National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) panel to have 'only 'Bharat in textbooks' (Page 1, October 26) is not surprising. If concerned parents are not going to express their views about textbook revisions loudly and clearly, nothing much is going to change. Only time will tell when these types of textbook 'revisions' are going to stop.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Perhaps the NCERT panel is keen to prove that it is more loyal than the king. A pat on its back might soon come its way. The Opposition's criticism hardly matters as the present regime has always given the Opposition short shrift.

C.V. Aravind,
Bengaluru

As a Central Board of Secondary Education student who used NCERT textbooks, I strongly oppose the proposal to rename 'India' to 'Bharat' in textbooks. A diverse country like India, which is essentially an amalgam of various cultures and languages, cannot have a name that caters to a specific group or party. Bharat is a term that is most often used in the northern part of the country. 'India' is not just the name of our country but an emotion for many.

Sabatini Sathyakumar,
Bengaluru

Everyone should be in affirmation — and this includes the INDIA bloc — in using Bharat hereafter while referring to our nation. The NCERT's suggestion should be accepted and implemented without hesitation.

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

A flood of freebies

With five State Assembly elections to be held soon, and thereafter the parliamentary general election, there is bound to be a freebie flood.

Some mechanisms should be in place to prevent political parties from unleashing unviable promises.

Elections in India, called the 'festival of democracy, seem to be straining the exchequer as the party that wins ends up subjecting people to more taxes.

R. Sampath,
Chennai

Probe 'cash for query'

The recent allegations involving a woman Member of Parliament from West Bengal raise grave questions. The alleged incident, in which the woman MP purportedly shared her parliamentary login ID and password with businesspersons, is deeply troubling.

The allegations transcend mere political rivalries and point toward a potential breach of security. They also concern the upholding of parliamentary ethics and standards. It is a matter of concern that an individual can compromise integrity for personal gain or in service of private interests. To maintain the faith and the trust of our citizens in the democratic process, we must ensure that those who represent us in politics uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct. The allegations against the woman MP, which are as yet unproven, deserve a thorough and impartial examination.

Aman Chaubey,
Seohara, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Is India ready to host the Olympic Games?

Manisha Malhotra

is the Head of Sports Excellence and Scouting with JSW Sports

Norris Pritam

is a journalist with over three decades of experience in covering multi-discipline events including six Olympics

PARLEY

The Prime Minister recently said that India aspires to host the 2036 Olympic Games. This has been a dream for successive governments and sports officials. Hosting the Olympics would not only underscore India's importance as a sporting nation, but also enable it to assert its geopolitical power and showcase development. But is India ready to host the Olympics? Manisha Malhotra and Norris Pritam discus the question in a conversation moderated by **Uthra Ganesan**. Edited excerpts:

What does hosting an Olympics entail? Why is it a prestige issue for nations to host the Games?

Manisha Malhotra: The Olympics is the pinnacle of sport. It showcases not only your nation to the world, but also soft power. Essentially, for 16 days, the whole world talks about your country. It is a huge honour. But the magnitude of it brings to the forefront not only the good but also the bad. So, hosting the Olympics becomes a double-edged sword. Even for seasoned countries which have hosted multiple Olympics, there are challenges. We saw what happened when Beijing hosted the 2008 Games... there was a lot of pushback and negative publicity.

Norris Pritam: The Olympics is also a political statement. India is a global power and [its prestige] will go up manifold if it hosts the Games. Manisha talked about Beijing. But I think once the Games start, people forget these things; only the legacy of the Games remains.

What are the non-negotiables in making an Olympics successful?

NP: The Games are the property of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and are given to the National Olympic Committees (NOC). The first non-negotiable is a strong NOC, which talks in unison. You cannot be bidding for the Games and have three parallel tracks in the NOC. The government comes later. Of course, the NOC cannot work without the government, but the Games are actually given to the NOC, which is the Indian Olympic Association here.

The second is a legacy. What are we going to offer to the people in the years to come? The people's participation, the social structure, and whether we can build infrastructure or not – this is a complete package. It's not just about winning or losing. A country may win the bid to host the Games and yet may not win several gold medals. But if they host the Games well, it's good. So, [this involves] the NOC's relations with the IOC, the government, and the Opposition.

Illuminated Olympic rings in in Tokyo in 2020, one year before the Olympics Games were held in the city. GETTY IMAGES

MM: Cohesion is the first, and I think that's where India will struggle. We are united, but we don't know how to work with one another well. The NOC is at the centre of the Olympics and it has to be governed above board and efficiently.

Hosting the Games involves different cogs in the wheel – culture, heritage, hospitality, infrastructure, finance, government, and sports bodies – which have to work in cohesion. In Paris (where the Olympics will take place in 2024), the culture departments are working with the museums. Every local garden has some Olympics history and event happening. There are lanes and roads being earmarked just for the Olympics. There is deep cleaning. Whether this is because of the bed bugs or whether they are just trying to get things ready, everybody is working at a frenetic pace.

I asked a Parisian whether the city is ready to host the Games. She said, 'Whether we're ready or not, our people are so proud and united about the Games that we will make it happen. And even if we are not ready, we will make sure that the Games are a success.' That tells a lot about that society. During the Commonwealth Games in India (2010), there were many challenges. Every small challenge was highlighted and almost blown out of proportion. Doing this takes away from the joy of hosting the Games. So, I am not sure if we will be able to galvanise everyone for an event like this.

Will India be ready to host the Games in 2036? Is 13 years enough time to get everything in order?

NP: Thirteen years is not a long time. Even if you want to bid for the Games, you have to start working from now to make yourself presentable to bid for the Games. Whether India is ready right now is not the right question to ask because, let's admit it, we are not ready. It also depends on which city hosts the Games. You need to have a top-class village for the Games. It cannot be done on a political level or at the city level. You have to have specialists – marketing

> Thirteen years is not a long time. Even if you want to bid for the Games, you have to start working from now to make yourself presentable to bid for the Games.
> NORRIS PRITAM

specialists, who can think 13 years ahead, engineers, scientists, roads, bridges, everything. We have to start from now even if we want to bid. Fortunately, the IOC has now changed the rules a bit. Instead of just one city, you can host the Games in a twin city or in two regions or even in two countries in the same region.

MM: Even Paris today is not ready. But Paris will be ready in 2024. Regarding the city, that's a huge challenge because of the political landscape and how India views sports, how each State views sports. We need to shortlist cities and hire feasibility consultants who can give unbiased and unpolitical reports about which city could host the Games best.

If we just focus on the sporting aspect, the biggest issue is governance. Indian sport is governed poorly. Federations are in a disarray, barring one or two. They don't know how to develop their own talent. They keep relying on basic government funds. They are not proactive.

Then there are larger social issues such as doping. All this needs to be tackled. I think India's biggest rival for 2036 would be Budapest. If you look at where Budapest is in terms of sports and hosting a big event and its facilities, an Ahmedabad or Delhi or Chennai or Mumbai will not even be in the same stratosphere.

NP: During the Atlanta Games (1996), we were busy sitting at the main stadium, which was beautiful, covering the Games. But because of security concerns, we couldn't roam around the stadium. The morning after the closing ceremony, we decided to go to the stadium and take some pictures. But half the stadium had already been dismantled because a baseball season was starting there. That's the kind of thinking you need. Here, after the 1982 Asian Games, the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Delhi) was shut for years and it became an expensive junk yard. You cannot say I have got the Games, now the Games are over, thank you, goodbye. If you get the bid, what are you going to do with structures on which you spent $30 billion-$40 billion, five-10 years down the line?

If we focus on India's rank in the global sporting order, should India host the Games? Can India be confident of at least being in the top 15 nations, medal-wise, by 2036?

NP: Earlier I wasn't confident but after the Asian Games success I have hope. The reason is that people like Manisha and companies like JSW have transformed Indian sport. Look at Neeraj Chopra. Somebody asked me, 'Where does he stay?' I said he is an NRI. I have hope because of facilities, medical facilities, and the exposure abroad. If Avinash Sable had been running only command and services meets, I don't think he would have run such gallant races. He is a world class runner because of these facilities, which were not given earlier. Indians can do well. Somebody has to nurture them and provide support and exposure at the right time.

MM: I don't mean to be the buzz kill here, but look at facts: India won three medals in Beijing (2008), six in London (2012), and seven in Tokyo (2021). Even if India wins 14 medals in 2036, that still does not place the country in the top 15. We need to develop sports in which multiple medals can be won. Cycling, athletics, swimming, rowing, kayak-canoeing – these are five sports where, barring athletics now a little bit, India is non-existent. So, this is going to be the key. How quickly are we going to be able to develop these so that India wins medals? I don't think you are going to be able to do that in 13 years. A 20-year horizon would be more realistic.

And I don't know why you should even be in the top 15. In India, one gold medalist gets much more recognition that even 100 don't get from China or the U.S. So, I don't think the top 15 should be much of a benchmark. But yes, we would have to be competitive across events. And at least be in every final there is.

The IOC is big on temporary structures and reusing stadiums. Given that, and the fact that Indian authorities are fond of building huge venues, how do you think India should develop facilities if it wins the bid?

MM: Temporary movable structures are the way to go. I don't think anyone can afford to build big stadia any more.

NP: In India we are fond of saying 'world's largest' or 'Asia's biggest' or 'first time in India.' We should get over this mentality. We should be technically superb, that's it. Temporary structures can be built, and after the Games, they can be used for communities. A Sports Minister once said the Nehru Stadium should be locked, otherwise the track will get spoiled. Finally, without anyone running, the track got spoiled. Maybe, if people had run on it, it would have had more life. We should have workable stadiums or venues.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

How a marketing blitz can affect film criticism

Reviews and interviews can often dictate access to stars

Gautam Sunder

In August, *The Guardian* published a piece by film critic Manuela Lazic asking, "Who needs film critics when studios can be sure influencers will praise their films?" This struck a chord with film writers across the globe; such has been the impact of the marketing strategies that studios have built around big-budget releases in recent times, especially after the influx of the streamer.

As Lazic points out, the mega-success of *Barbie* is the best example of how this can pay off. Keeping aside the fact that the marketing budget of the film was higher than the cost of production, the plethora of early positive reviews from influencers and 'select' journalists even before the film opened ensured that the Greta Gerwig directorial broke all sorts of collection records and created the 'Barbenheimer' phenomenon. This is not to take away the fact that both *Barbie* and Christopher Nolan's *Oppenhemier* deserved the hype, but it was as much a win for PR as it was for cinema.

It is not very different in India. Critics are regularly invited to advance screenings before the opening weekend (usually, the most important days for a film's box-office success) and given access to talent based on how harsh or favourable their previous reviews were. Exclusive merchandise and press junket invites are mostly extended to those who have played ball with the studio or streamer's earlier offerings. The writers are made to feel like they are royalty while hanging out with the cast and crew, which naturally leads to glowing takes and fawning questions. Gone are the days of journalists being able to directly call up stars and set up interactions; if the marketing team doesn't like your critique, you are in danger of being frozen out of mailing lists.

Indeed, movie marketing is essential when done the right way. But it is not uncommon these days for some PR professionals to even call up critics after screenings and request that their opinions not be overly harsh once it is understood that the movie is potentially going to tank. Or better still, they gamble on influencers whose reach can sometimes outstrip that of mainstream media houses. This is why many Instagram/YouTube stars are becoming "interviewers" nowadays.

So, what can the rest do? Often, a big part of a film or feature writer's job depends on access. How many can afford to risk losing this altogether? Is it surprising then that many choose to only write something positive or nothing at all?

Then, there is the problem of film fandom. If a journalist writes a negative opinion about a superstar's project, they can get trolled to the point where they are forced to deactivate their accounts. As former film critic of *The New York Times*, A.O. Scott, said about why he decided to stop reviewing movies after 20 years, "I'm not a fan of modern fandom. This isn't only because I've been swarmed on Twitter by angry devotees of Marvel and DC; it's more that the behaviour of these social media hordes represents an anti-democratic, anti-intellectual mind-set that is harmful to the cause of art and antithetical to the spirit of movies."

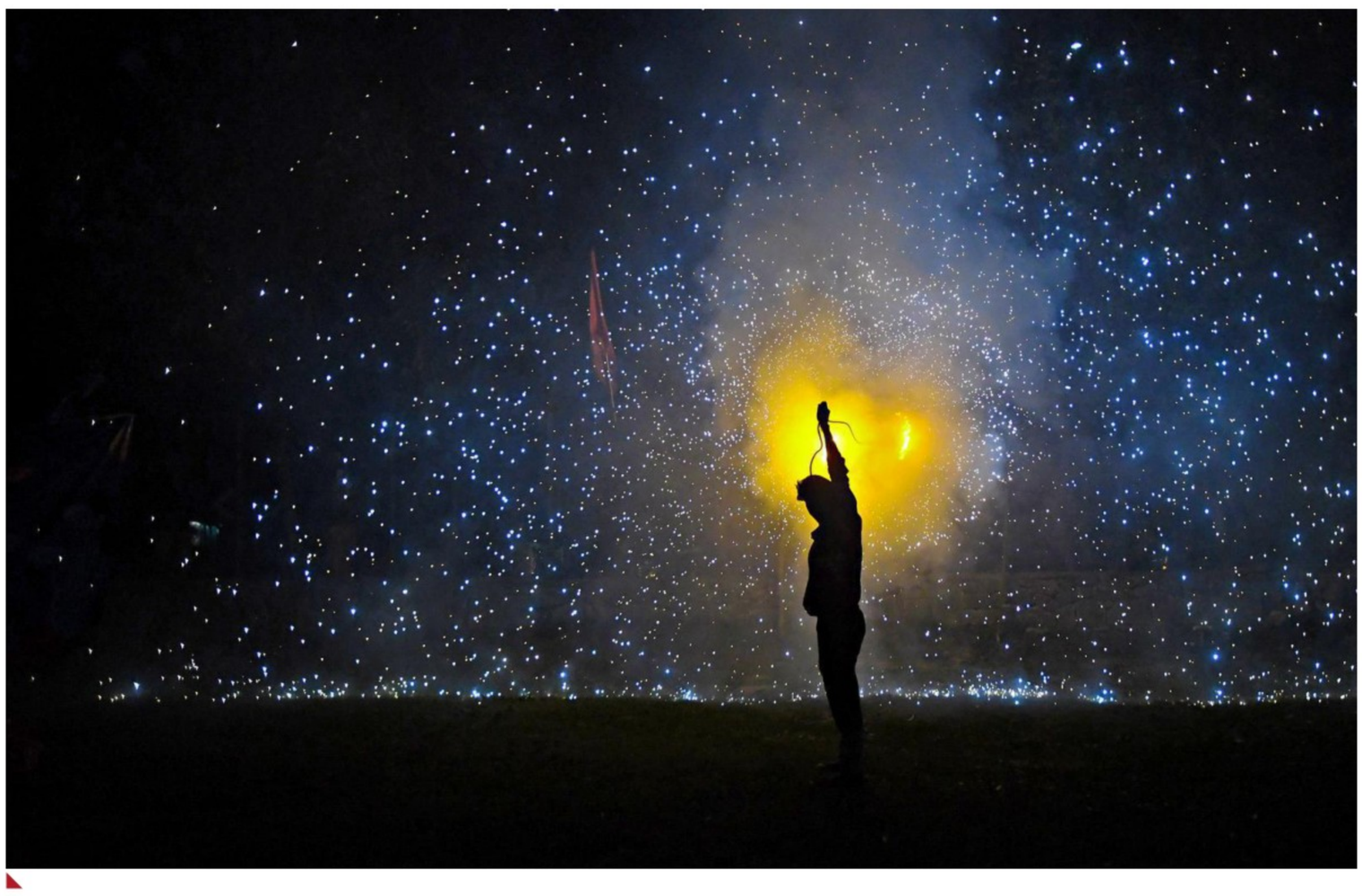
This issue runs deep. As theatres struggle to recover in a post-Covid world populated with streaming platforms, critics are made to feel guilty by fans and even publicists, who ask in the belief that they are fighting for the greater good of cinema, "Why would you stop people from going to the cinema halls where they are needed more than ever? Your negative review could influence this theatre owner or production house's future."

But the hope is that in this age of clickbait headlines and viral reels, some journalists will resist the PR overdrive, keep their criticism fair and engaging, and continue to challenge the audiences continually on theirs. And perhaps one day, playing the long game will pay off. Until then, we always have the movies to keep us going.

gautam.sundar@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Where there is darkness, there is light



A man lights firecrackers on the night of Dussehra, in Srinagar. The festival of Dussehra marks the triumph of good over evil, symbolising the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana. NISSAR AHMAD

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 27, 1973

UN peace force units on way to West Asia

United Nations, Oct. 26: The first units of a U.N. military force, ordered to police the West Asia ceasefire, flew from Cyprus to Egypt to-day aboard British jets, a U.N. spokesman said.

A British Government offer of seven planes to airlift Austrian, Finnish and Swedish troops, now in the U.N. Cyprus Peace-keeping Force, has been accepted, he announced.

The Security Council yesterday approved a resolution calling for the formation of a new U.N. Emergency Force and specifying that, like other such peace-keeping forces, it would not include men from the United States, the Soviet Union or the three permanent members of the Council. As the Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, canvassed other U.N. members for the new force, the Council authorised him to get things moving by sending to Cairo 897 men from the 3,000-man U.N. Peace-keeping Force stationed on Cyprus since 1964.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 27, 1923

New Bill being drafted

Calcutta, Oct. 26: A Press Communique has been issued by the Government of Bengal with reference to the Calcutta Corporation's inquiry as to whether Government was irrevocably committed to the construction of a Cantilever Bridge across the Hooghly between Calcutta and Howrah. The Communique recalls that the Committee of engineers appointed in 1921 unanimously favoured a Cantilever Bridge and that the Committee subsequently appointed to consider the finance indicated that it would be financially possible to construct it.

From Page One

8 ex-Navy officers get death penalty in Qatar

The company was also involved in producing high- tech Italian-origin submarines that are known for stealth capabilities.

The first trial in the case was held in March this year, followed by another in June. The men were granted consular access on multiple occasions and the Indian ambassador to Qatar met them as recently as October 1. Both sides, however, have maintained a veil of secrecy over the case in view of the sensitivities involved.

High-stakes relationship

Former Indian ambassador to Qatar Deepa Gopalan highlighted the important role that a large number of Indian migrants play in fostering India-Qatar relations. "This verdict could very adversely affect relations between the two countries. There are over seven lakh Indians in Qatar and we have close economic ties. The Indian government has been following the case closely without doubt, but would need to take it up at the highest level to ensure their lives are saved," she said.

The verdict is the first major crisis to hit the India-Qatar relationship, which has generally remained steady so far. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Doha in 2016, followed by his meeting with the Emir of Qatar on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in 2019. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also visited Qatar in February 2022. According to the MEA, Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India, which accounts for over 48% of India's global LNG imports. India also imports ethylene, propylene, ammonia, urea, and polyethylene from Qatar.

The verdict drew strong reactions from Opposition political parties as the Congress urged the government to use its diplomatic leverage with Qatar to get the officers released at the earliest.

Five militants killed near LoC in Kupwara: police

Encounter with infiltrators started in the Machhal sector, a police spokesperson says; in Jammu, BSF and Pakistan Rangers exchanged fire in the Arnia sector, injuring one jawan and civilian

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Five militants were killed in a counter-infiltration operation near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara on Thursday, the police said.

A police spokesperson said an encounter with infiltrators started in the Machhal sector, in which five of the terrorists were killed.

"Identification of the slain are being ascertained. The search operation is in progress," Additional Director-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The Kupwara police had provided the information about the presence of infiltrators.

'Infiltration from PoK'

Jammu and Kashmir Director-General of Police Dilbag Singh said infiltration bids keep happening from Pakistan's side and it is being foiled by the Army, police and other agencies.

J&K DGP Dilbagh Singh (right) addressing the media regarding the counter-infiltration operations near the Line of Control. ANI

"There are 16 launching pads located opposite this division in PoK [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir]. The number of terrorists is very low [in Jammu and Kashmir]. People believe in peace and development and are cooperating with the administration," Mr. Singh said.

An Army spokesperson said a huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the slain terrorists.

"Five AK Rifles and other war-like stores have been recovered. The operation has been concluded," the Army said.

The spokesman said the Army's Chinar Corps remains resolute in its commitment to keep Kashmir terror-free.

Mr. Kumar has appreciated the role of the Kupwara Police for generating the actionable input.

In Jammu, the Pakistan Rangers and the Border Security Force (BSF) exchanged fire in the Arnia sector of the Union Territory on Thursday night. Officials confirmed injuries to at least one BSF jawan and one civilian in shelling and firing.

'Unprovoked attack'

"Around 9 p.m., unprovoked firing started by Pakistani Rangers on BSF posts in Arnia area, which is befittingly retaliated by BSF troops.

The firing is still on," the BSF said.

An official said several villagers near zero line shifted to safer areas, as firing triggered panic.

It's for the second time in October that India has accused Pakistani Army of violating the ceasefire agreement.

Both India and Pakistan renewed the pledge to respect the 2002 ceasefire agreement in 2020.

Rath Prabharis to be called nodal officers for outreach events

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Following a controversy over the deployment of civil servants as *Rath Prabharis* during the upcoming Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra across the country, the Union government on Thursday clarified that the use of such a term was not proper and that the officials would instead be addressed as nodal officers.

The Congress had raised objections, asking how officials could be ordered to do such a pre-poll "political propaganda" for the government. Through an October 17 letter, all the departments were earlier told that Joint Secretaries, Directors, and Deputy Secretaries would be deployed as *Rath Prabharis* to coordinate for the preparations, planning, execution and monitoring of the programme.

Launch on November 15

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the yatra on November 15, on the occasion of Birsa Munda Jayanti - Janjaati Gaurav Divas by flagging off Information, Education and Communication (IEC) vans at Khunti in Jharkhand. The vans will be visiting the tribal districts initially and the remaining districts from November 22 to January 25.

On Thursday, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said the programme would not be launched in the poll-bound States when the Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct was in place. He said the programme's objective was a nationwide outreach and awareness campaign to ensure that every eligible person was covered under 20 Central schemes.

Around 2.6 lakh gram panchayats (rural) and over 3,700 urban local bodies encompassing around 14,000 locations (urban) would be covered during the campaign, other than the election-bound States.

People would be apprised of the Central schemes covering benefits such as sanitation facilities, essential financial services, electricity connections, access to LPG cylinders, and housing for the poor.

ED searches in Rajasthan kick up row

The summons issued to Vaibhav Gehlot in a foreign exchange violation case asked him to depose before the ED at its headquarters in New Delhi on October 27. This case pertains to a Rajasthan-based hospitality group, whose promoter had earlier been Mr. Vaibhav Gehlot's business partner in a car rental company. The ED reportedly wants to record Mr. Vaibhav Gehlot's statement under the Foreign Exchange Management Act.

Congress protests

The raids led to tension in the State capital and Congress party workers staged massive protests in both Jaipur and Sikar, raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While an armed escort of the Central Reserve Police Force accompanied the ED teams, the State police force was also deployed on the roads to keep the situation under control.

The ED had earlier arrested several people, including former Rajasthan Public Service Commission member Babulal Katara, and seized properties and cash worth crores of rupees in the paper leak case. The accused had allegedly provided the question paper to candidates appearing in the exam for ₹8 lakh to ₹10 lakh each.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference, the Chief Minister slammed the BJP government at the Centre, accusing it of unleashing terror in the country. "They are misusing the Central investigating agencies to target Congress leaders because of the fear of BJP's defeat in the Assembly polls," he said.

Cong. 'politicising' ED search in Rajasthan paper leak case: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday said that the Congress government in Rajasthan, led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, was trying to "politicise" the Enforcement Directorate's search against what it termed "the big fishes" in the exam paper leak case.

The ED on Thursday searched the premises of Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra in Jaipur and Sikar as part of a money-laundering probe into the paper leak case and summoned Mr. Gehlot's son, Vaibhav Gehlot, in a foreign exchange violation case.

The Congress attacked the Centre over the ED action, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking the help of Central agencies to fight the November 25 Assembly election in the State.

'Most corrupt govt.'

The BJP fielded Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to combat the Congress's charge. "Ashok Gehlot is frustrated with action against corruption because his government has broken all limits of corruption. His own party leaders, MLAs, adviser and Minister have said that this is the most corrupt government of the century," Mr. Shekhawat said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi.

The Union Minister noted that a series of government recruitment exam paper leaks had taken place in Rajasthan, putting the future of lakhs of youth at risk.

ED action in Rajasthan sign of BJP's imminent loss: Pilot

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday displayed a united front as the Enforcement Directorate issued summons to Vaibhav Gehlot, son of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, in a Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) case and carried out searches at the official residence of Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra in the paper leak matter.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot questioned the timing of the searches and the summons and called them "suspect, politically motivated and a sign of BJP's imminent loss [in the Assembly election]".

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters, Mr.

Sachin Pilot

Pilot said the FEMA case was 12 years old. "When they feel that they can't win the elections through the mandate of the people of the State, then they engage these agencies," he said.

On Thursday, the ED searched Mr. Dotasra's residence in connection with the leak of question papers of recruitment exams in Rajasthan.

By fielding Mr. Pilot, who has consistently raised the issue of paper leaks under the Gehlot government, the Congress sent a political signal of trying to bury the past. The Congress Working Committee (CWC) member, who had once rebelled against his own government, also stuck to a near-perfect script.

When reporters asked him about Mr. Gehlot's comment, at a press conference last week, that the Chief Minister's position may not leave him in future as well, Mr. Pilot replied, "No one knows what is there in the womb of the future. We are all working in the present. Of course, we take lesson from the past."

"Right now, our collective effort is to win the Rajasthan election with overwhelming majority. Who will get what responsibility will be decided by the party in the future," he added.

Mamata slams 'dirty political game of BJP'

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday called the Enforcement Directorate action in West Bengal and Rajasthan a "dirty political game" of the BJP.

The ED conducted searches on the premises of State Minister Jyotipriya Mullick and also issued summons to Vaibhav Gehlot, son of Rasjathan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

Calling the BJP leadership to fight its opponents politically, she said, "Ashok Gehlot is not from my party but why are you raiding his son's house before elections? They want to search everyone's house before elections." Ms. Banerjee said she would request Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that cooperative federalism is not destroyed.

Land will continue to be a key domain of warfare: Army chief

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

One of the key lessons from the Russia-Ukraine conflict is that land will continue to be a key domain of warfare, especially when there are contested borders as in the case of India, Army chief General Manoj Pande said on Thursday.

On the situation along the border, General Pande said it was "stable".

"I believe the victory markers have to be defined in the land domain, and hence the salience of the land domain. That is not to suggest when we look at enhancing our outcomes, through the jointness and integration that we wish to or must achieve with the other services and other stakeholders...it is as important. But, in my view, in terms of salience of land, the land domain is going to be extremely important especially in our case," General Pande said in a fireside chat with Lieutenant-General Raj Shukla (retd). He was speaking at the curtain-raiser to the inaugural 'Chanakya Dialogue' being hosted by the Army, along with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, next week.

General Manoj Pande

Asked about his tenure, he said the past year had been challenging yet satisfying. "As far as the operational situation is concerned, it is stable and we have dealt with internal security challenges the way we are supposed to deal with them".

Sparks fly at Ethics committee meet to hear complaint against Mahua

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has summoned Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on October 31 to defend herself against the cash-for-query charges levelled against her by BJP member Nishikant Dubey.

At the committee's meeting on Thursday, the Opposition MPs initially refused to allow Mr. Dubey, the complainant, and Jai Anant Dehadrai, advocate and Ms. Moitra's former partner, to depose.

When Mr. Dehadrai walked into the meeting, the Opposition members vociferously protested, with BSP MP Danish Ali pointing to the "different standards" being applied by the Ethics Committee and the Privilege Committee, which is hearing his complaint against BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri.

In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla last

Mahua Moitra

week, Mr. Ali said the Privilege Committee had first summoned defendant Mr. Bidhuri – who used communal slurs against Mr. Ali during a Lok Sabha debate – instead of him, the complainant, while the Ethics Committee chose to call the complainant first instead of the defendant.

Thursday's deadlock between the Opposition and BJP MPs was broken through a vote, with Chairman and BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar casting the deciding vote.

Five Opposition MPs voted against allowing Mr. Dubey and Mr. Dehadrai from presenting evidence, while six ruling party MPs voted in favour of it.

In the 15-member committee, four members, including Congress MP Preneet Kaur, were absent at the meeting.

Help from Ministries

"We heard out both Mr. Dubey and Mr. Dehadrai who were summoned by the committee. Considering the gravity of the allegations, Ms. Moitra has now been called to present her defence on October 31," Mr. Sonkar told pressmen at the end of the meeting. He also said that the committee had sought assistance from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. He refused to divulge the information the panel has sought from the two Ministries.

The Opposition demanded that industrialist Darshan Hiranandani, who submitted an affidavit indicting Ms. Moitra, also be summoned before the panel. "We were told that Mr. Hiranandani is a UAE citizen and therefore we will have to consult the legal experts on whether he can be called for the meeting," a senior Opposition leader said.

As per a complaint filed by Mr. Dubey and Mr. Dehadrai, the Trinamool MP had shared her Lok Sabha login id and password with industrialist Mr. Hiranandani to enable him to ask questions on her behalf in exchange of pecuniary benefits. Mr. Hiranandani, in the affidavit submitted to the Ethics Committee, turned approver.

The Opposition asked a raft of questions to the Chairman on why the committee is in such a hurry. "What was particularly problematic is the propaganda from BJP that preceded the meeting," another member said.

INDIA leader to be chosen at opportune time: Lalu Prasad

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad on Thursday slammed the BJP saying it was trying to create a communal divide, and added that the party would be wiped out in next year's Lok Sabha election.

The RJD chief also alleged the BJP is a threat to the Constitution.

Speaking of the leadership issue in the Lok Sabha election, Mr. Prasad stressed that a leader for the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) would be selected at the opportune hour, while praising Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, as a flag-bearer of social justice.

The RJD supremo visited the State Congress headquarters after a gap of nearly eight years. He said the winds that originate in Bihar will spread over the entire country and lead to a victory of the new bloc.

APPEAL

Master Vishal Mangtani, son of Anand Kumar 11 years admitted in Christian Medical College, Vellore is suffering from Intracranial Germ Cell Tumor. His treatment is for 6 months and the total cost of treatment is **Rs. 4,50,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Vishal Mangtani. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855. You can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

MIZORAM » MADHYA PRADESH » RAJASTHAN » CHHATTISGARH » TELANGANA

Kamal Nath files poll papers from Chhindwara

Madhya Pradesh Congress president and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Thursday filed his nomination from the Chhindwara constituency — his pocket borough — for the November 17 State Assembly election.

The 76-year-old leader filed the nomination after offering prayers at a Ram temple here.

The ruling BJP has fielded Bunty Sahu against Mr. Nath. The Congress leader had defeated Mr. Sahu by a margin of more than 25,000 votes in the byelection to the Chhindwara seat in 2019.

Talking to presspersons, Mr. Nath, who is leading the party in the State and is its chief ministerial candidate, said the people of Madhya Pradesh, in particular Chhindwara, will shower their blessings on the Congress. Mr. Nath has represented the Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency eight times. PTI

Kamal Nath won the 2019 byelection to the Chhindwara Assembly seat by a margin of 25,000 votes.

'Congress, SP are fighting for same issues'

Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala on Thursday said that his party and the Samajwadi Party were, in principle, fighting together over issues such as unemployment, corruption and inflation, and that their DNA for the Constitution and the nation was the same.

Mr. Surjewala's remarks came amid a public discord between the Congress and the SP over seat-sharing for the Assembly election in Madhya Pradesh. Both parties are partners in the INDIA bloc.

"We have been talking to our INDIA alliance friends from time to time. Sometimes, coordination with them [on issues] gets established and sometimes it may not," he said. It is like a father having four sons and all of them living in different houses, he said. "But their DNA for the Constitution and the country will remain same," he said. PTI

> Seeing its certain defeat in Rajasthan, BJP made its last throw of the dice! The ED has entered the campaign and started action against Congress
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president

Ram vs Ravan video lands man in deep trouble

Ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election, the police have registered a non-cognisable offence report against a man in Indore over a video purportedly projecting BJP candidate Kailash Vijayvargiya as Ravan and his Congress rival Sanjay Shukla as Lord Ram, an official said on Thursday. PTI

> They [Cong.] have committed the sin of leaking papers and destroying the dreams of youth in Rajasthan. The youth are not getting justice
>
> **C.P. JOSHI**
> BJP Rajasthan unit president

A long wait: Former IAS officer Nisha Bangre joined the Congress in Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. ANI

Out of job and out of race after a long battle

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

A former Deputy Collector, Nisha Bangre, who joined the Congress in Madhya Pradesh on Thursday, will not contest the Assembly election but will serve the State and the party in other capacities, State Congress president Kamal Nath said.

He was speaking at a public rally in his home turf Chhindwara, where he also inducted Ms. Bangre into the party ranks. "You will become an example. No problem that you are not contesting the polls, but I need your services in M.P.," he said.

Ms. Bangre had quit her Deputy Collector position in June after the administration denied her permission to attend a Buddhist event and an all-religion prayer for the inauguration of her home in Amla.

Her resignation was only accepted by the Madhya Pradesh government on Tuesday after a four-month struggle. Having quit government service, she sought to enter politics and contest the polls from Amla in Betul district.

The Congress, which had earlier held the seat for her, announced its candidate for Amla late on Monday, the deadline set by the Madhya Pradesh High Court for the government to decide on Ms. Bangre's resignation. On Tuesday, however, the Congress changed its candidates for four other seats in the State.

Ms. Bangre accused the BJP government of "conspiring against her" by issuing the order accepting her resignation only after the Congress declared its candidate. She, however, continues to be hopeful that the party will consider changing its candidate from Amla. "I have been told that the Congress's central leadership will review the matter. I am going to Amla now and will be ready to file the nomination in case the party gives me a signal," she told *The Hindu* in a phone conversation.

A source in the State Congress said that Ms. Bangre had not fared well in the party's internal surveys and that has now been conveyed to her. "She has become a prominent face representing women and Dalits in the State now. So it's better for her to start working for the party on the ground instead of contesting an election right away," the source said.

Another senior leader, however, said, "Since, she was not a party member until now, I don't think her name was part of any survey. We wanted to field her but the BJP government delayed clearance to her resignation on purpose." He added, "Now, it's not right to replace Manoj Malve (Congress candidate from Amla) out of the blue. She will get better opportunities after the elections."

As the government failed to accept her resignation, submitted in June, Ms. Bangre had moved the High Court on August 7 and got a ruling in her favour, with the court directing the government to decide on the resignation soon. On August 21, however, the government initiated departmental proceedings against her and used them to get a stay on the HC's directions.

In September, Ms. Bangre took out a foot march from Betul to Bhopal. She was detained in the State capital in October when her supporters decided to protest at Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's house, but was released the next day. Last week, the HC again ruled directing the government to conclude the proceedings and make a decision on her resignation by October 23.

Communal cut and thrust roils poll blitz

Chhattisgarh has never seen such divisive rhetoric so far in its electoral history; as Amit Shah and Himanta raised the temperatures by resorting to such language, especially in the Durg and Rajnandgaon belt, the ruling party has been seeking to defend its turf through welfare promises

IN FOCUS

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The term "lynching", the Hamas-Israel war, and a Mughal emperor have all become part of the political lexicon of Chhattisgarh in the run-up to the election. With past communal clashes influencing not just the tone and tenor of the BJP's campaign but its selection of candidates as well, observers say the State is witnessing the emergence of a Hindu-Muslim divide as a poll issue for the first time in its electoral history.

As the BJP looks to build a narrative against the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government through allegations of polarisation and corruption, the ruling party seeks to defend its turf – and its catchphrase of *Bharosa* (trust) – through new welfare promises.

Campaigning for candidates in the Durg and Rajnandgaon belt, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma have delivered speeches with communal overtones.

Communal themes

In Rajnandgaon on October 16, Mr. Shah accused the Congress government of being responsible for the lynching a youth, who was killed in a Hindu-Muslim clash in April and whose father the BJP has fielded as a candidate from the Saja seat in Bemetara district.

Two days later in Kawardha, Mr. Sarma – campaigning for Vijay Sharma, another BJP candidate who is an accused in the 2021 communal clashes over religious flag hoisting – targeted the State's only Muslim Minister, Mohammad Akbar, saying, "One Akbar brings a hundred Akbars." He added that it was an 'Akbar' fighting on the Gaza Strip, noting that Hamas had shot down children and the elderly in Israel.

The Congress has filed complaints with the Election Commission against the two leaders, and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has accused the BJP of politicising the communal clashes.

"In the Biranpur [Bemetara] incident, action was taken against all the accused. After that, we also announced compensation and passed it in the Cabinet. The manner in which the BJP has fielded [the victim's father Ishwar Sahu] as a candidate, it means they want to politicise," Mr. Baghel told a TV channel on Wednesday.

Raipur-based political commentator Ashok Tomar says that this is a desperate move by the BJP, as its campaign has lacked teeth so far and proposals for a caste survey have further wrong-footed the party. "Though Muslims form a miniscule part of the State's population, polarisation on religious lines, and also pitting Sahus – a community that Ishwar hails from – against the Congress may cause some damage to the Congress in 18 seats where the community is dominant. This includes areas from the Durg-Rajnandgaon belt that sends key political figures such as Raman Singh and Mr. Baghel to the Assembly, to the Bilaspur region," he says.

Caste calculus

Mr. Tomar adds that the Sahu-versus-Congress/Muslims calculus has to be viewed in light of the BJP's own efforts to woo the Sahus, a key Other Backward Class (OBC) community, by appointing Arun Sao as its State president last year. The BJP has fielded nine candidates from the Sahu community while the Congress has fielded seven. "And then factor in the Congress alienating some of the Sahu voters by not making [Cabinet Minister] Tamradhwaj Sahu the Chief Minister. The BJP is attempting a counter to the Congress's OBC push, as the upper caste voters are barely 7% to 8% in Chhattisgarh," says Mr. Tomar.

Narayan Chandel, a senior BJP leader and the Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing Assembly, plays down the importance of these controversial speeches.

On the candidature of Mr. Sahu and Mr. Sharma, however, he says that there are many factors behind the selections, including caste. "The party must have thought it through before fielding them. There are many factors involved, regional equations, caste equations and feedback from ground surveys," he says.

On October 23, Mr. Baghel rolled the dice again when he announced a farm loan waiver for the farmers of the State and reiterated his earlier promises to conduct a State-level caste survey, buy 20 quintals per acre of rice from farmers, and provide 17.5 lakh houses for the homeless. One prevailing view within the Congress is that the bonus it gives to paddy cultivators is now being "taken as granted", and the party needed to do something extra to keep farmers impressed.

Mr. Chandel from the BJP, however, says that waiving loans will not be possible this time around. "The State is under a lot of debt and the Treasury does not have enough funds for even patchwork of roads. Where will they get the funds from? They are deceiving the farmers," says Mr. Chandel.

Both parties have now announced their candidates for all the 90 seats in the State, with nearly a third from OBC communities.

The Congress has dropped 22 of its 71 MLAs, though two of them have sons who will contest from their fathers' current seats. The BJP has also dropped two sitting MLAs, from a relatively low base of just 13 MLAs and despite internal criticism about too many old faces in their list. There have been few instances of rebellion in either party till now.

The main actors in this electoral theatre are the BJP and the Congress, but the State does have a smattering of other players looking to spoil the party for the leads.

They include an alliance between the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Gondwana Gantantra Party, the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh(J) or JCCJ, the Hamar Raj Party (HRP) founded by former Union Minister Arvind Netam, and a rejuvenated Aam Aadmi Party. In the 2018 polls, despite an impressive show by the Congress, over 20% of the votes went to "others".

Asked if too many players will mean a division of the non-BJP, non-Congress votes, JCCJ chief Amit Jogi says his party has fielded grassroots-level workers and picked those who have won elections at the local level as BJP and Congress candidates. Analysts say the outfit's prospects are dim after the death of its founder Ajit Jogi.

Past record

The Congress and the BJP have played a major role in Chhattisgarh politics, while others have chipped in. A lowdown of past election results

Vote %

Party	2018	2013	2008
Cong.	43	40	39
BJP	33	41	40
Others	24	19	21

Seats won

Party	2018	2013	2008
Cong.	68	39	38
BJP	15	49	50
Others	7	2	2

All set: CRPF personnel heading to Chhattisgarh ahead of the Assembly elections. ANI

Assam CM gets EC notice for speech targeting Minister in poll-bound Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday was served a notice by the Election Commission for a speech he had made in the poll-bound Chhattisgarh earlier this month.

In Kawardha, the Assam Chief Minister had attacked Mohammad Akbar, Chhattisgarh's only Muslim Minister, and said the land of Mata Kaushalya would get impure if Mr. Akbar was not sent off.

Calling the speech divisive and communal, the Congress had filed a complaint with the EC against Mr. Sarma. During his Chhattisgarh visit on Thursday, Mr. Sarma had said that he had raised the right issue through his speech and if the EC sent him a notice, he would respond to it.

He alleged on Thursday that Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had opened a "big market of religious conversion" in the State to weaken Sanatana Dharma.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had made the remarks during his visit to Chhattisgarh earlier this month. FILE PHOTO

"...We have to think about the situation to which the Bhupesh Baghel government has pushed Chhattisgarh. Religious conversions are taking place. A conspiracy is being played to convert tribals in every part of the State. Sanatana [Dharma] is being attacked," he said in Mahasamund district where he was addressing a public meeting in support of his party candidates.

"We should think about what the Congress has given in five years. Has he [Mr. Baghel] opened any university in five years? In Assam, medical colleges have been set up in each district. There has been no basic transformation in the State [Chhattisgarh]. Baghel does drama every time," he added.

He attacked Mr. Baghel over his latest promise on farm loan waiver, asking why were the farmers forced to take loans in the first place. He urged people to elect the BJP in Chhattisgarh so that a double-engine government could work for its development.

Congress announces third list for Rajasthan poll

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Congress on Thursday announced its third list, comprising 19 candidates, for the upcoming Rajasthan Assembly election.

Ticket was given to one Minister and 11 MLAs, including three Independents who had supported the Ashok Gehlot government during the political crisis in 2020. The State will go to the polls on November 25.

The State's ruling party also fielded two MLAs who had won the 2018 Assembly polls on Bahujan Samaj Party ticket and later joined the Congress along with four of their fellow legislators. The two legislators are Wajib Ali, who will contest from Bharaput district's Nagar seat, and Lakhan Singh Meena, fielded from Karauli.

Minister Ramesh Chand Meena has been fielded from the Sapotra constituency in Karauli. The party has declared candidates for 95 seats in the 200-member Assembly.

EC issues notice to Priyanka Gandhi over remarks on Modi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The move comes after the BJP filed a complaint over her comments regarding PM's temple visit

The Election Commission on Thursday issued a show-cause notice to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra over her "envelope" remarks related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's temple visit. It asked her to respond to the notice by October 30.

The EC action came a day after the BJP filed a complaint against her.

The BJP on Wednesday accused Ms. Vadra of "invoking the personal religious devotion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi" to make false claims during her election campaign in Rajasthan, and urged the Election Commission to take action against her.

Ms. Vadra, the BJP noted in its submission, told a public meet in Dausa on October 20 that she saw it on television that when an envelope of donation made by Mr. Modi at a temple was opened, it carried only ₹21. She added that she saw the news and was not aware if the claim is true or not, the BJP's complaint read. She then went on to launch a political attack on the BJP saying that "envelopes" are shown to public by the party but nothing is found in them after the elections. The BJP included a video of her remarks in its complaint.

Reacting to the BJP's complaint, Ms. Vadra on Thursday alleged that Mr. Modi was making "empty promises". In a post on her WhatsApp channel she said: "The BJP people got so angry with one of my statements that they filed a case against me."

"The work that he does also shows that Modi*ji*'s envelop is empty. Women's reservation, OBC caste census, ERCP (Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project) are all empty promises because Modi*ji*'s envelope is empty," she said.

INBRIEF

Mehbooba re-elected PDP president for fourth time

Mehbooba Mufti, former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister, was re-elected president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the party elections in Srinagar on Thursday. Ms. Mufti, 64, was elected through a voice vote, in which senior party leaders participated at the party headquarters at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. She will serve the party as its president for a three-year term. A party official said Ms. Mufti's name was proposed by party vice-president Abdul Rehman Veeri. It is for the fourth time Ms. Mufti has been re-elected president. "She embodies resilience, a powerful voice, and the epitome of struggle and determination," Firdous Tak said.

BJP celebrates 'Accession Day' in Jammu & Kashmir

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday celebrated October 26 as 'Accession Day' to commemorate the arrival of the Army in Jammu & Kashmir on this day in 1947, followed by signing of the Instrument of Accession by then Dogra monarch Maharaja Hari Singh. "The Accession Day has existed since 1947. It was some local political parties that misguided youth, resulting in bloodshed and filling of graveyards, all these years. These parties are still yearning for violence in Kashmir. However, Narendra Modi on August 5, 2019, ended their propaganda," BJP leader Darakhshan Andrabi said.

SC allows surrogacy, strikes down rule banning use of donor gametes

Two-judge Bench comes to the rescue of a woman suffering from the rare medical condition of Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome by staying the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes of becoming a mother

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has protected the right of parenthood of a woman, suffering from a rare medical condition, by staying the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes to become a mother through surrogacy.

The woman has the Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome. Medical board records showed she has "absent ovaries and absent uterus, hence she cannot produce her own eggs/oocytes". The couple had begun the process of gestational surrogacy on December 7 last year.

However, a government notification on March 14 this year amended the law, banning the use of donor gametes. It said "intending couples" must use their own gametes for surrogacy. The petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the amendment as a violation of a woman's right to parenthood.

"The amendment which is now coming in the way of the intending couple and preventing them from achieving parenthood through surrogacy, we find, is, *prima facie* contrary to what is intended under the main provisions of the Surrogacy Act both in form as well as in substance," a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan held in a recent order.

Senior advocate Sanjay Jain, the petitioner's lawyer, argued that the amended Paragraph 1(d) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, by ruling out the use of donor eggs, had made it impossible for his client and her husband to continue with the process of surrogacy to achieve parenthood.

He argued that the 2023 amendment contradicted Sections 2(r) and 4 of the Surrogacy Act, 2021, which recognised the situation when a medical condition would require a couple to opt for gestational surrogacy in order to become parents.

Mr. Jain referred to Rule 14(a) of the Surrogacy Rules which listed the medical or congenital conditions owing to which a woman could choose to become a mother through gestational surrogacy. They included "having no uterus or missing uterus or abnormal uterus (like hypoplastic uterus or intrauterine adhesions or thin endometrium or small unicornuate uterus, T-shaped uterus) or if the uterus is surgically removed due to any medical condition such as gynaecological cancer".

'Woman's choice'

The lawyer said the Rule made it clear that the choice was solely that of the woman. He said his client had begun the surrogacy process months before the amendment, which cannot be implemented retrospectively.

The government, through Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, countered that the process of surrogacy cannot be availed under the law unless the child was "genetically related" to the intending couple. This exempted the use of donor eggs. In an 11-page order, the court agreed with Mr. Jain's argument that the law permitting gestational surrogacy was "woman-centric". The decision to have a surrogate child was entirely based on the woman's inability to become a mother owing to her medical or congenital condition. Such a condition included the "absence of a uterus or repeatedly failed pregnancies, multiple pregnancies or an illness which makes it impossible for her to carry a pregnancy to term or would make the pregnancy life-threatening".

The amendment cannot contradict Rule 14(a) which specifically recognises the absence of a uterus or any allied condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy, the court held.

Addressing the government's contention that the surrogate child should be "genetically related" to the couple, the court said the child would be related to the husband. "In this regard, it may be noted that the expression 'genetically' related to the intending couple has to be read as being related to the husband when Rule 14(a) applies," the court said.

Easing the path

On March 14, 2023, government notified amendments to the law to ban the use of donor gametes, saying 'intending couples' must use their own gametes for surrogacy

- Supreme Court says the amendment cannot contradict Rule 14(a), which specifically recognises the absence of a uterus or any allied condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy

The amendment which is now coming in the way of the intending couple and preventing them from achieving parenthood through surrogacy, we find, is, prima facie contrary to what is intended under the main provisions of the Surrogacy Act both in form as well as in substance," says SC Bench

Add Tagore's name on varsity plaque, says Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The controversy over the installation of plaques at Visva-Bharati University has turned into a full-blown political war with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee threatening protests if the name of Rabindranath Tagore is not included in the installation by Friday.

A controversy had erupted after Visva-Bharati had installed plaques commemorating UNESCO "World Heritage Site" to Santiniketan, bearing the names of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also the Chancellor of the university, and Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty.

"It is only for Rabindranath Tagore that Santiniketan got the UNESCO tag. We were silent because of the Durga Puja celebrations. If you do not remove the plaques and put up new ones with the Nobel Laureate's name by 10 a.m. tomorrow, our people will launch a demonstration holding Kobiguru's photos to their chests," the Chief Minister told presspersons.

The university authorities have called the plaques temporary and the crisis unwanted.

Internet ban in Manipur extended till October 31

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

The Manipur government has extended the mobile Internet ban for another five days till October 31, officials said on Thursday. The ban was extended following "apprehensions that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and videos inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions on the law and order situation," a notification said.

The notification by Commissioner (Home) T. Ranjit Singh said that the DGP's letter dated October 25 had "reported that there are still reports of incidents of violence like confrontation of the public with security forces, attempts to mob elected members' residences."

'Super rich' incomes' share ebbing amid middle-class mobility: CBDT

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's tax base has widened sharply since 2013-14, with individuals moving up the income ladder and the proportion of super-rich taxpayers' incomes declining, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Thursday, days after the Congress cited income tax data to show widening income inequality in the country.

The overall number of income tax (I-T) returns filed by individuals has risen from 3.36 crore to 6.37 crore through assessment years 2013-14 to 2021-22, while there is also an increase in number of returns filed by individual taxpayers across various ranges of gross total income, the CBDT said in a statement.

"In the range of gross total income up to ₹5 lakh, the number of returns filed by individual taxpayers has increased from 2.62 crore in AY 2013-14 to 3.47 crore in AY 2021-22, registering an increase of 32%. This range of income includes individuals having income below taxable limit who may not be filing returns," the board pointed out.

For higher income ranges of ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, and ₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh, the number of individual returns filed surged 295% and 291% over the period, respectively. "This indicates that individual taxpayers are showing a positive trend of migration to higher range of gross total income," the CBDT said.

Digging deeper into the data reveals that the proportionate contribution of gross total income of top 1% individual taxpayers vis-à-vis all individual taxpayers has decreased from 15.9% to 14.6%, the board said, while the share of the bottom 25% taxpayers increased from 8.3% to 8.4% over the same period.

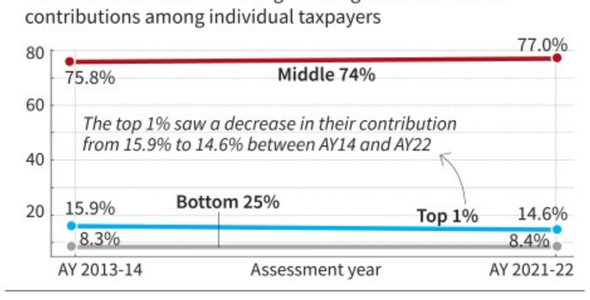
"The proportion of gross total income of middle 74% group of individual taxpayers increased from 75.8% to 77% in the above period," the statement said, adding that the average gross total income for individual taxpayers increased from about ₹4.5 lakh to about ₹7 lakh over the nine-year period, representing an increase of 56%.

"The increase in average gross total income for top 1% individual taxpayers is 42% while that for bottom 25% individual taxpayers is 58%," it added.

The data indicates "robust growth in the gross total income of individuals across different income groups subsequent to AY 2013-14", the board said, adding this was reflected in the increase in net direct tax collections from ₹6.38 lakh crore in 2013-14 to ₹16.61 lakh crore in 2022-23.

Marginal shift in contributions

There has been a subtle change in the gross total income contributions among individual taxpayers



India's green hydrogen move may worsen pollution if steps are not in place, says study

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's plans to produce so-called 'green hydrogen' – where the gas is produced without resulting in fossil fuel emissions – may end up worsening pollution if proper checks and balances are not in place, according to a study by environmental and energy think-tank, Climate Risk Horizons (CRH).

The National Green Hydrogen Mission, piloted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), expects to manufacture five million tonnes by 2030. This would require the installation of renewable energy capacity worth 125 GW and the use of 250,000 gigawatt-hour units of power, equivalent to about 13% of India's present electricity generation.

As of August 2023, India's total renewable energy (RE) capacity stood at 131 GW. The 2030 green hydrogen plan thus envisages adding an equivalent RE capacity by 2030. This is over and above the 500 GW of RE capacity that India has committed to install by 2030 as part of the Paris Agreement. To put that in perspective, India installed only 15 GW of new solar and wind capacity in 2023, against the 45 GW per year needed to reach the 2030 target.

Using coal-based power

The MNRE has defined green hydrogen as hydrogen produced in a way that emits no more than two kg of carbon dioxide per kg of such hydrogen. Currently, producing one kg of 'grey hydrogen', as it is known, ends up emitting nine kg of carbon dioxide. "While a detailed methodology is awaited, the definition as it stands leaves a lot to interpretation," said CRH's chief executive Ashish Fernandes, in the report released on Thursday.

The main concern is that if electrolysers were run 24x7, they would be expected to operate even at night when no solar power is available.

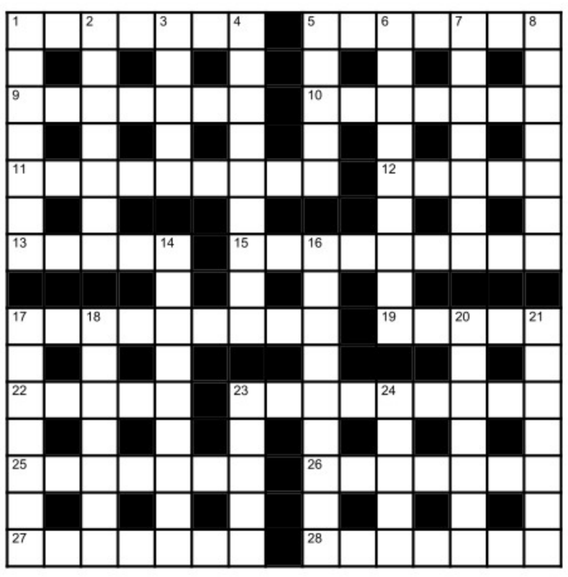
"Where will the electricity come from? If it comes from India's coal-powered grid in general, it will in fact increase carbon emissions, since about 70% of the electricity on the grid is coal-generated – more in non-daylight hours when solar generation is nil," the report notes. "The vast majority of projects have not disclosed their source of electricity. It is also not clear if those few projects that have committed...to meet 100% of their requirement from these sources."

TH CROSSWORD + 14005

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Notice hundred thousand from India breaking into Pennsylvania Avenue (7)
5 Ring inlaid in my filigree headgear (7)
9 Regiment is hoarding stray, withered fruit (7)
10 Cravin' for drug? (7)
11 Oriental wearing a cape wins fight, getting appreciation (9)
12 Upper class elements of the literati (5)
13 Dope obtained from discharged airmen fleeing European city (5)
15 Singular, Byzantine beer mugs in swamps (9)
17 Not like I fight amidst evening out with partner! (9)
19 After rejecting outliers, certifies statistical assessment (1-4)
22 Implement vacuous scheme to protect quarters (5)
23 Doctor induced to cut (9)
25 Model remains outside parking area (7)
26 Doctor linked to a charge involving model who has been recruited recently (7)
27 Case of rector getting involved in petition by don is bizarre (7)
28 Developing new source of aromatic perfume (7)

Down

1 Airmen from India turned up to divide portion for dessert (7)
2 Article by Avtaar and partner in Kindle (7)
3 Spice displayed on the counter by warehouses in Africa (5)
4 Torrid days - drinking cola leads to indigestion (9)
5 Stupid sort taking the wrong turn (5)
6 Picture is on now (9)
7 From Athens, a letter and phone about son's job in a hospital (7)
8 Quotes from merchant, agent and accountant, perhaps? (7)
14 This is offered after a handshake by top seed after work-out with beginner in England (5,4)
16 Fancy bed linen with diamonds seamlessly integrated (7,2)
17 Leaves voids (7)
18 Sparta's principal caravan race (7)
20 First line in "Introduction to Effective Training and Communication" (7)
21 Touching line from explosive, overpowering novel "Agnes' son goes missing" (7)
23 Puppet-stringing amateur odd-job man (2-3)
24 Bears hiding egg under college mess (5)

SUDOKU

9					1	5		
8	7	3		9				
		1	7					6
	3							
	6	5	9		3	1	2	
							7	
6					9	3		
				6		7	4	2
		7	1					5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5960 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

C	O	N	S	E	R	V	E	K	I	S	S	E	S
H	E	A	A			N	U	Y
E	X	C	I	S	I	N	G	E	D	I	S	O	N
E	K	E	T	I	I	H	O
S	A	L	A	D	A	B	D	U	C	T	I	O	N
E	A	G	L	A	Y
S	C	A	R	C	E	I	N	T	E	R	I	M
C	E	E	O	E	S
A	S	S	U	M	E	D	B	U	R	G	E	R
L	A	H	R	L	T
E	N	C	H	I	L	A	D	A	P	I	E	C	E
N	A	N	L	V	A	C	N
D	E	R	I	D	E	P	U	L	S	A	T	E	D
A	O	E	R	T	E	E
R	U	L	E	R	S	M	A	R	A	U	D	E	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	3	7	5	1	4	8	6
1	5	7	6	4	8	3	9	2
4	8	6	3	2	9	5	1	7
3	7	1	4	6	2	9	5	8
6	9	2	5	8	3	1	7	4
5	4	8	1	9	7	2	6	3
7	3	4	8	1	5	6	2	9
8	1	9	2	3	6	7	4	5
2	6	5	9	7	4	8	3	1

FAITH

Saranagati, the easiest way

Yama comes in the guise of a poor man to meet king Yudhishthira. Yama refuses the food offered by Yudhishthira, for the sins of a king's subjects come to the ruler, elaborated Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse.

Eating food served by a king will result in transference of some of those sins to the one who eats the food. Yudhishthira wonders what he is going to do about the sin which will come to him, if the visitor leaves without accepting his (Yudhishthira's) hospitality. Yama assures him that such a sin will not touch a Vishnu bhakta like Yudhishthira. A person with such devotion never seeks the fruits of any daana, for he does not see anything as his property. He sees everything that he has as coming from the Lord, and he submits the benefits of daana at Krishna's feet. The benefits of a punya take one to svarga. But a true devotee seeks moksha, not svarga. And so, he will not seek the benefits of any act of generosity.

There are circuitous paths to reach the Lord, like upasana, for instance. But the easiest way to reach Him is saranagati or total surrender at His feet. Yama, after revealing who he is, says that since Yudhishthira is an amsa of Yama, the deity of dharma, he cannot do wrong. Although Yudhishthira has not done any aradhana to Yama, the latter says he is pleased with Yudhishthira's aradhana.

KABUL

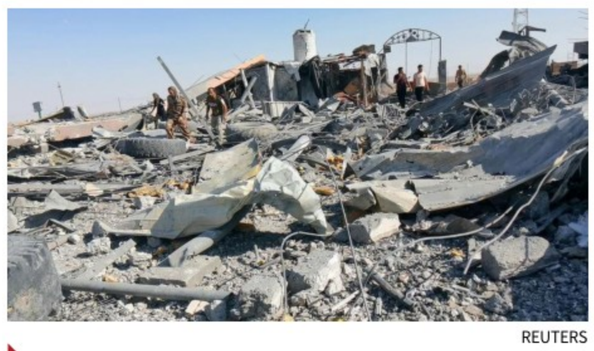
Afghan girls' education activist released from detention: family

AFP

An Afghan activist who campaigned for girls' access to education was released from detention on Thursday, more than seven months after he was arrested by Taliban authorities, his family said. Matiullah Wesa, the founder of the non-profit organisation PenPath, "has been released", his brother Attaullah Wesa said. AFP

ARBIL

10 PKK fighters killed as Turkiye renews strikes on northern Iraq



REUTERS

Ten fighters from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were killed, Iraqi Kurdish authorities said on Thursday, as Turkiye said it launched renewed air strikes on northern Iraq. Turkiye's Defence Ministry confirmed conducting air strikes on targets in five areas of northern Iraq, saying "many terrorists were neutralised". AFP

BRATISLAVA

Slovakia announces halt of aid to Ukraine, pointing to crack in unity

REUTERS

Slovakia's new populist Prime Minister Robert Fico said on Thursday that his government was stopping military aid to Ukraine, in the first Western reversal of the kind. Slovak political scientist Branislav Kovacik said that Ukraine "will not miss the volume [of aid]" but added that "any loss in unity has symbolic meaning". AFP

TBILISI

Armenia PM hopes for Azerbaijan peace deal 'in coming months'

AFP

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Thursday he hoped to sign a peace agreement with Azerbaijan in the coming months, after Baku recaptured Nagorno-Karabakh from ethnic-Armenian separatists in September. The peace treaty would be on the mutual recognition of the Soviet-era borders, he said. AFP

Israeli troops carry out ground incursion into Gaza

Death toll in Gaza, which sees devastating Israeli bombing, soars past 7,000, according to the Palestinian officials; during the raid, 'soldiers killed Hamas fighters and destroyed infrastructure'

Associated Press
RAFAH

Deadly strike: Smoke billowing over the northern Strip after the overnight raid by the Israeli Army into Hamas-controlled Gaza. AFP

Israeli troops and tanks launched an hours-long ground raid into northern Gaza overnight into Thursday, the military said, striking several militant targets in order to "prepare the battlefield" before a widely expected ground invasion after more than two weeks of devastating airstrikes.

The raid came after the UN warned that it's on the verge of running out of fuel in the Gaza Strip, forcing it to sharply curtail relief efforts in the territory, which has also been under a complete siege since Hamas' bloody rampage across southern Israel ignited the war earlier this month.

The rising death toll in Gaza, which soared past 7,000 on Thursday, according to Palestinian officials, is unprecedented in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Even greater loss of life could come if Israel launches an expected ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007 and survived four previous wars with Israel.

750 killed in 24 hours

The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said Wednesday that more than 750 people were killed over the past 24 hours, higher than the 704 killed the previous day. Israel has vowed to crush Hamas' capacity to govern Gaza or threaten it again, while also saying it doesn't want to reoccupy the territory from which it withdrew soldiers and settlers in 2005. That could prove a daunting challenge, since Hamas is deeply rooted in Palestinian society, with political and charity organisations as well as a formidable armed wing.

Benny Gantz, a retired general and a member of Israel's war Cabinet, said any possible ground offensive would be only "one stage in a long-term process that includes security, political and social aspects that will take years."

"The campaign will soon ramp up with greater force," he added.

During the overnight raid, soldiers killed fighters and destroyed militant infrastructure and anti-tank missile launching positions, the military said. It said that no Israelis were wounded. There was no immediate confirmation of any Palestinian casualties.

Israeli Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, a military spokesman, said the limited incursion was "part of our preparations for the next stages of the war."

Israel also said it had also carried out around 250 airstrikes across Gaza in the last 24 hours, targeting tunnel shafts, rocket launchers and other militant infrastructure.

Israeli strike kills family of *Al Jazeera* journalist

Agence France-Presse
DOHA

The family of an *Al Jazeera* journalist have been killed in an Israeli strike on Gaza, the Qatar-based network said on Wednesday.

It said the wife and two children of its Arabic-language channel's Gaza correspondent Wael Al-Dahdouh were killed in a strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

"The indiscriminate assault by the Israeli occupation forces resulted in the tragic loss of his wife, son and daughter, while the rest of his family is buried under the rubble," it said. *Al Jazeera* said the family was staying in a temporary home after evacuating Gaza City following Israel's warning.

Palestinians will die rather than leave home: envoy

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Adnan Abu Al-Haija.
SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Palestinians will choose death over becoming refugees in other countries despite the threat of Israeli bombing, said Palestinian Ambassador to India Adnan Abu Al Haija here on Thursday. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Al Haija said the Israeli Defence Forces have not achieved any military objective by carrying out bombing raids over the Gaza Strip as no major leader of Hamas has been harmed in these attacks and urged India to call for an immediate ceasefire.

"Whatever may be the condition, we will not repeat the mistakes of 1967 and 1948 when Palestinians left home under Israeli attack. We will die if they carry out massacres but will not leave home this time. The remarks of the Jordanian King have already made it clear that the solution will not come by the removal of our population from home," said Ambassador Al Haija.

India has maintained a careful position during the latest round of fighting that erupted on October 7 with the attack on Israel by Hamas.

"We thank India for sending humanitarian assistance. We are deeply thankful for the gesture. But there are thousands of tonnes of goods waiting in Egypt but till now only 100 trucks have been able to enter Gaza as there is a shortage of fuel as that has to be supplied for the generators of hospitals," said Mr Al Haija. The envoy said he has been in contact with the Indian interlocutors and has briefed them about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

He said the West has been silent despite witnessing the destruction that Gaza has been subjected to over the last 20 days arguing that the West has lost moral authority to talk about killings be it in Ukraine or elsewhere.

Pak. sets up deportation centres to hold migrants

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is setting up deportation centres for migrants who are in the country illegally, including an estimated 1.7 million Afghans, officials said on Thursday. Anyone found staying in the country without authorisation from next Wednesday will be arrested and sent to one of centres.

The move is the latest development in a Pakistani government crackdown to expel foreigners without registration or documents.

Jan Achakzai, a spokesperson for the government in southwestern Pakistan's Baluchistan province, said three deportation centres were being set up there. One will be in Quetta, the provincial capital.

Pakistan's caretaker Interior Minister, Sarfraz Bugti, says the deadline will not be extended.

Mr. Bugti said during a news conference on Thursday that no migrants living in Pakistan without authorization illegally would be mistreated after their arrests. "They will not be manhandled," he said.

A shooter points a gun in Sparetime Recreation in Lewiston, Maine. AP

Shooter kills at least 18 in Maine; search on for killer

Associated Press
LEWISTON

A man shot and killed at least 18 people and injured 13 at a restaurant and a bowling alley in Lewiston, Maine, and then fled into the night, sparking a massive search by hundreds of officers while frightened residents in multiple communities stayed locked in their homes on Thursday under a shelter-in-place advisory.

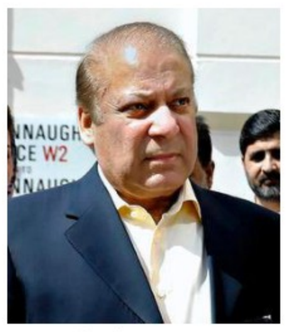
A police bulletin identified Robert Card, 40, as a person of interest in the attack that sent panicked bowlers scrambling behind pins. Card was described as a firearms instructor believed to be in the Army Reserve and assigned to a training facility in Saco, Maine.

The document, circulated to law enforcement officials, said Card had been committed to a mental health facility, and had reported "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" the military base.

The (same) road ahead for Nawaz Sharif in Pakistan

NEWS ANALYSIS

Amit Baruah



Nawaz Sharif

Three names have haunted Nawaz Sharif in his political career – Abdul Waheed Kakar, Pervez Musharraf and Qamar Javed Bajwa. All three former Army chiefs in Pakistan sent Mr. Sharif packing as Prime Minister on three different occasions, using three differing routes.

And, now, after remaining in "medical exile" since 2019, he is back in Pakistan in what will be his fourth attempt to take power. This time he has a new Chief of the Army Staff to tango with – Asim Munir.

Mr. Sharif's VIP-style arrival and instant bail from the courts in a host of cases goes to show that the Army establishment, after ensuring the ouster of Imran Khan as Prime Minister earlier this year, believes that the PML-N leader is the horse to back in the forthcoming elections.

After landing in Pakistan on October 21, and addressing a well-attended rally at the Minar-e-Pakistan, Mr. Sharif's political fortunes will be closely watched. For better or worse, he is the crowd puller for the PML-N.

As a country, Pakistan is ravaged by rampant inflation, an ever-weakening rupee, rocketing fuel and gas prices, commitments to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and an absolute inability to expand the tax base in the country.

It's likely that one of the "conditions" imposed by Mr. Sharif to return to Pakistan is that his political rival Imran Khan be jailed and prosecuted. After all, it was Mr. Khan, who, in cahoots with then Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa and the Supreme Court, that ensured the conviction and disqualification of Mr. Sharif in 2017. It was a subdued Mr. Sharif who addressed his supporters at the Minar-i-Pakistan, stating up front that he would not be seeking revenge against those who plotted his ouster in 2017. In the past, speaking from London, he fired a salvo at Gen. Bajwa and then ISI chief Faiz Hamid, seeking action against them for their role in his ouster.

Powerful establishment

In Pakistan, civilian PMs have had a long history of being consumed by the Generals they appointed as Army chiefs. Though constitutionally the civilian set-up has been strengthened, the reality is that the permanent establishment of Pakistan can use the courts or even Parliament to send a PM home.

Perhaps the longest (and publicly happiest marriage) was the recent one between Gen. Bajwa and Imran Khan till it ended in a bitter divorce and loss of office for Mr. Khan. They publicly differed on the choice of an ISI chief, known to be the second most powerful office in Pakistan.

Mr. Khan then went on to launch a most fierce public tirade not just against the Army chief but the Army as an institution – an attack that the khaki-clad could not stomach from the '*laadla*' (darling) they had themselves spawned.

In 1998, Gen. Jehangir Karamat chose to resign as Army chief after publicly, but politely, pointing to the many dangers that Pakistan faced. Mr. Sharif could not stomach the criticism and Gen. Karamat chose to quit office. His successor Pervez Musharraf would oust Mr. Sharif in a coup the following year.

This context is important as Mr. Sharif is not known for his restraint when it comes to dealing with other institutions. If he is to have a fourth chance at becoming Prime Minister, then Mr. Sharif will have to learn to live within the confines of a rocky marriage with Gen. Asim Munir, the most powerful man in the country.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 142/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D1/TVM, JJM - CWSS to Kadinamkulam Mangalapuram & Andoorkonam Pts and Attingal Municipality - Construction of 20LL OHSR, Laying of CWPM to Kurakkada OHSR, Transmission Mains of 450mm, 400mm, 350mm, 200mm & 150mm diameter, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of CWP to Valiyakunnu OHSR - Pipeline Work, **EMD** : Rs. 500000/-, **Tender Fee** : Rs. 19518/-, **Last Date for Submitting Tender** : 20-11-2023, 03:00 pm, **Phone** : 0471 2322303. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1432-2023-24 PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
232423 002960	To run Oxidizing Biocide Program including Boilout on Package cost basis for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II	11.11.2023

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & Conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in Tender documents which can be downloaded from at our websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/5728/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

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Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Extn.: 4206/4295. E-Mail:pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Work Description	Due date
232413 004776	Civil works for expansion of TNPL Public School building in Second Floor at TNPL Unit - I	09.11.2023
232413 004777	Providing concrete road from BR#5 to pith yard east side at TNPL Unit - I	10.11.2023

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/5736/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

THE KERALA NON RESIDENT KERALITES' WELFARE BOARD
[A statutory body established under the Non-Resident Keralites' Welfare Act, 2008, Government of Kerala]

Expression of Interest for Engagement of Actuarial Valuation Consultant/Firm

Kerala Non Resident Keralites' Welfare Board invites offers in sealed cover from experienced Actuaries consultant/Firms, who are fellow members of the Institutes of Actuaries of India for the Actuarial valuation for the various schemes of KNRKWB such as Pravasi Pension, Family Pension, Invalid Pension, Treatment Assistance, Educational Grant, Death Benefit, Marriage Assistance, Maternity Assistance, Pravasi Bhavana Paddhathi (Housing Scheme), Pravasi Dividend Scheme etc. The details can be downloaded from the website of KNRKWB at **www.pravasikerala.org**. The last date of receipt of offers is on **10.11.2023** KNRKWB reserves the right to reject or accept or withdraw the offer in full or part as the case may without assigning any reason thereof.

RO/02485/d3/2023/I&PRD Sd/- Chief Executive Officer

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kaloor, Ernakulam-682017
Ph: 0484-2846700

E-TENDER

1. **Design, Build, Operate And Transfer (DBOT) of Sewerage Collection System For The South Catchment of Chilavanoor And Thevara -Perandoor Canals and a Fully Automated 17.5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant Using SBR Technology At Elamkulam, Kochi, Kerala.**
   E-Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_613769_1
   Last date of submission: 01-12-2023 5:30PM
2. **DESIGN, MANUFACTURING, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ELEVATORS AT VYTTILA COMMERCIAL BUILDING (2 NO.) AND VYPEEN TERMINAL (1 NO.)**
   E-Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_609610_1
   Last date of submission: 04-11-2023 5:00 PM
3. **Implementation of On-Grid Roof Top Solar PV system at Water Metro Terminals for Kochi Water Metro Project (KWMP)**
   E-Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_609981_1
   Last date of submission: 06-11-2023 5:00 PM
4. **E-Tender cum Auction Notice For Commercial Lease of KMRL Edapally Land.**
   E-Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_608738_1
   Last date of submission: 08-11-2023 5:00 PM
5. **E-Tender cum Auction Notice For Commercial Lease of KMRL Kaloor Land**
   E-Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_615310
   Last date of submission: 13-11-2023 5:00 PM
6. **LETTING OUT OF OFFICE/COMMERCIAL SPACE AT PULINCHODU METRO STATION (PNCU RHS STRT 102) ON LICENSE BASIS THROUGH E TENDER_Retender**
   E-Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_585302_2
   Last date of submission: 30-10-2023 5:00 PM
7. **Letting Out Of Office/Commercial Space At Ernakulam South Metro Station (ERSH RHS STRT 300) On License Basis Through E Tender**
   E-Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_613429_1
   Last date of submission: 06-11-2023 5:00 PM
8. **Interior Designing, construction, installation, finishing works and commissioning of Kochi Metro Museum at Vadakkekota Metro Station**
   E-Tender Id : 2023_KMRL_608554_1
   Last date of submission: 30-10-2023 5:00 PM
9. **Battery Operated Three Wheeler Passenger**
   E-Tender Id : GEM/2023/B/4045253
   Last date of submission: 31-10-2023 4:00 PM

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org

Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website

INBRIEF

Ola Electric raises ₹3,200 cr. for expansion of EV business

Ola Electric on Thursday said it has raised ₹3,200 crore from Temasek-led investors and State Bank of India. The company announced the successful closure of the funding round from Temasek-led investors and State Bank of India. The funds raised would be utilised towards the expansion of Ola's EV business and setting up India's first lithium-ion cell manufacturing facility at Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, the company said in a statement here. PTI

Mamaearth parent Honasa's ₹1,701-cr. IPO to open on Oct. 31

Skin and haircare products brand Mamaearth's parent Honasa Consumer Ltd. has announced a ₹1,701-crore IPO in the price band of ₹308 to ₹324 per share with a face value of ₹10 each. The offer will open on October 31 and close on November 2. Bids can be made for a minimum of 46 equity shares and in multiples of 46 shares thereafter. The IPO comprises fresh issue aggregating up to ₹365 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 4,12,48,162 equity shares by selling shareholders.

HPCL, Chevron tie up to unveil Caltex brand lubricants in India

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and Chevron Brands International, a subsidiary of Chevron Corp., have entered into a long-term agreement for licensing, production, distribution, and marketing of Chevron's lubricant products under the Caltex brand, including Chevron's proprietary Havoline and Delo branded lubricant products in India. HPCL's facility at Silvassa will manufacture the premium range of Caltex lubricants.

Sensex sinks 1.4% to 4-month low on geopolitical, U.S. bond yield worries

Benchmark slumps 900.91 points to 63,148.15, the lowest close since June 26, led by automobile, finance and consumer companies; analysts flag possibility of further correction, recommend investors move to 'quality' and large-cap stocks

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex extended losses to a sixth session on Thursday, sliding 1.4% to its lowest close in four months as investors turn skittish amid mounting geopolitical tensions over the possibility of the Israel-Hamas conflict widening across the oil-rich West Asian region, and the rising U.S. bond yields that could signal more capital outflows from emerging markets.

The 30-stock index slumped 900.91 points to 63,148.15, the lowest close since June 26, led by auto, finance and consumer stocks. Mahindra & Mahindra led losses, declining 4.06%, followed by Bajaj Finance (3.54%) and Asian Paints (3.36%).

The NSE Nifty-50 index too shed 264.90 points, or 1.39%, to 18,857.25.

"The market correction has been led by... global geopolitical tensions and rising bond yields in the U.S. markets," said Naveen Kulkarni, Chief Investment Officer, Axis Securities PMS. "These challenges have a long-term impact on equities, but domestic factors remain encouraging.

"Our near-term advice to investors is not to panic... stocks that are overvalued and lack quality should be sold, while quality businesses can be accumulated at these levels. Focus on large caps and quality to navigate the current volatility," Mr. Kulkarni said.

Underscoring the volatility, the India VIX volatility index rose 3.69% to 11.73, its highest level in more than three weeks.

Bears rule

Stock indices slump for a sixth session as worries mount about the Israel-Hamas war turning into a wider conflict in West Asia

- M&M leads losses, declining 4.06%, followed by Bajaj Finance 3.54%
- NSE Nifty 50 sheds 264.90 points, or 1.39%, to 18,857.25
- India VIX volatility index rises 3.69% to 11.73, highest in more than three weeks

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	63,148	-1.41
US Dollar	83.25	-0.09
Gold	62,000	0.48
Brent oil	88.86	0.87

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2203.20	-53.80
Adani Ports	770.35	1.25
Apollo Hosp	4760.30	-99.60
Asian Paints	2960.30	-100.50
Axis Bank	972.05	16.60
Bajaj Auto	5259.35	-87.95
Bajaj Finserv	1560.00	-51.45
Bajaj Finance	7421.80	-272.65
Bharti Airtel	905.50	-17.10
BPCL	335.00	-4.95
Britannia Ind	4507.80	-25.95
Cipla	1150.85	-6.60
Coal India	305.25	-5.05
Divis Lab	3406.40	-37.05
Dr Reddys Lab	5421.95	-91.90
Eicher Motors	3326.80	-57.60
Grasim Ind	1849.55	-27.90
HCL Tech	1231.80	2.80
HDFC Bank	1463.40	-33.10
HDFC Life	605.85	-10.60
Hero MotoCorp	3111.95	-28.90
Hindalco	456.65	-4.55
Hind Unilever	2476.40	-0.90
ICICI Bank	908.65	-7.45
IndusInd Bank	1414.65	1.95
Infosys	1359.45	-10.60
ITC	434.35	1.65
JSW Steel	728.70	-19.60
Kotak Bank	1694.85	-33.20
L&T	2864.60	-51.50
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5170.50	-33.55
M&M	1506.10	-63.00
Maruti Suzuki	10424.15	-164.70
NestleIndia	23545.60	-717.10
NTPC	231.65	-0.40
ONGC	180.90	-3.45
PowerGrid Corp	198.95	-0.55
Reliance Ind	2226.50	-31.45
SBI Life	1305.60	-8.55
State Bank	547.00	-9.20
Sun Pharma	1103.70	-16.60
TataConsumerProduct	880.35	-9.65
Tata Motors	626.55	-11.30
Tata Steel	119.90	-1.45
TCS	3336.75	-53.35
Tech Mahindra	1115.45	-26.70
Titan	3100.80	-87.05
UltraTech Cement	8205.30	-51.05
UPL	561.05	-19.10
Wipro	378.25	-3.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.03	83.35
Euro	87.55	87.90
British Pound	100.36	100.76
Japanese Yen (100)	55.25	55.47
Chinese Yuan	11.34	11.39
Swiss Franc	92.42	92.78
Singapore Dollar	60.55	60.79
Canadian Dollar	60.16	60.42
Malaysian Ringitt	17.34	17.42
Australian Dollar	52.39	52.60

Source:Indian Bank

U.S.'s new visa rule could boost local hiring, says Nasscom

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The United States' proposed rule to "modernise H1-B requirements" could align with new visa norms to boost STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) hiring within the country, the Indian tech industry's apex body Nasscom warned on Thursday.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security proposed "Rule Modernizing H-1B Requirements, Providing Flexibility in the F-1 Program, and Programme Improvements Affecting Other Non-immigrant Workers" on October 23. Nasscom said it would submit its comments after thoroughly assessing industry requirements within the 60-day comment period.

Nasscom said sections of the new rule align with the Trump administration's unsuccessful attempts to limit the H-1B programme, but it also welcomed several changes that reaffirm the Biden administration's recognition of the substantial gap in supply and demand for skilled workers.

ECB breaks record streak of rate hikes

Reuters
ATHENS

The European Central Bank broke the longest streak of interest rate hikes in its 25-year history on Thursday, saying the latest data continued to point to inflation slowly coming down to its 2% target.

The ECB left the rate it pays on deposits at a record high of 4%, reaffirming that current borrowing costs may just be enough to tame inflation if kept there "sufficiently long".

Caught out by a surprise rise in prices, the ECB has spent over a year raising borrowing costs and discontinuing stimulus.

Sunak calls for global stand on AI safety

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Projecting Britain as a global leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called for a joint global statement on AI safety.

His speech coincided with the release of papers on the risks of AI produced by the U.K.'s intelligence agencies ahead of an international 'AI Safety Summit' in Bletchley Park next week.

Speaking at the Royal Society on Thursday, Mr. Sunak outlined some of the reports' findings, including the possibility that AI could be used to build

Rishi Sunak

chemical and biological weapons – and an "unlikely but extreme" scenario in which human beings could 'completely' lose control over AI.

However, Mr. Sunak said he did not want to be alarmist and was quick to add that the U.K. was not "in a rush to regulate" the technology.

Sundaram Home Q2 net grows 18% to ₹59.3 crore

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Sundaram Home Finance has reported a 18% increase in its net profit for the second quarter ending September 30 at ₹59.3 crore, the company said.

For the half-year ended September 30, net profit grew 20% to ₹116.75 crore.

Disbursements during the quarter grew to ₹1,213.87 crore from ₹940.56 crore. For the six-month period, total disbursements rose to ₹2,307.38 crore (₹1,736.25 crore).

"The strong growth of 33% in disbursements in the first half has been driven by our continued expansion in Tier II and III towns," said MD Lakshminarayanan Duraiswamy.

Indian Bank Q2 net surges 62% on NII

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

State-owned Indian Bank reported a 62% jump in the second-quarter standalone net profit to ₹1,988 crore, driven by an increase in net interest income (NII), other income and improvement in asset quality.

"Quarter after quarter, our profitability, net interest income and other income have been growing," MD and CEO Shanti Lal Jain told the media.

NII rose 23% to ₹5,741 crore, while fee based income grew by 11% to ₹805 crore year-on-year. Advances increased 12% to ₹4,92,288 crore while deposits grew 9% to ₹6,40,803 crore, according to the lender.

"We have guided for a 10-12% credit growth in

Shanti Lal Jain

FY24," said Mr. Jain. "We hope to continue the good performance."

Bad-debt recovery grew 6% while the fresh slippages stood at ₹1,976 crore. The recovery was more than ₹2,200 crore, he said.

Gross non-performing assets (NPA) decreased by 233 basis points year-on-year to 4.97% while net NPAs reduced by 90 basis points to 0.60%.

Canara Bank Q2 net jumps 43%, NPAs decline

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank on Thursday reported a 43% year-on-year jump in Q2 net profit to ₹3,606 crore. Net interest income (NII) rose 19% YoY to ₹8,903 crore, from ₹7,433 crore a year earlier.

Operating profit improved 10.3% to ₹7,616 crore as against ₹6,905 crore in the year earlier. Gross NPAs declined to ₹43,956 crore as against ₹52,485 crore last year.

Gross NPA ratio slid to 4.76% as against 6.37%, while net NPA ratio slipped to 1.41% as against 2.19% in the year earlier. Net NPAs declined to ₹12,554 crore in Q2 compared with ₹17,286 crore in the year-earlier quarter, the bank said.

PNB Q2 net surges over fourfold to ₹1,756 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Punjab National Bank (PNB) reported second-quarter standalone net profit surged by more than fourfold to ₹1,756 crore y-o-y on better asset quality and reduction in non-performing assets (NPA).

Operating profit grew 11.67% to ₹6,216 crore. There was a 20% increase in net interest income (NII) to ₹9,923 crore.

The public-sector lender said global net interest margin (NIM) improved by 11 basis points (bps) to 3.11%. Gross NPA ratio rose by 352 bps to 6.96% and net NPA ratio by 233 bps to 1.47%. Provision coverage

ratio improved by 795 bps to 91.91%.

Global business increased by 11.26% to ₹22,51,631 crore. Global deposits grew by 9.75% to ₹13,09,910 crore and global advances grew by 13.43% YoY to ₹9,41,721 crore.

The bank's retail-loan portfolio grew 16.5% to ₹1,47,247 crore.

India to produce its own "reference fuels"

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday baled out the first barrel of reference gasoline and diesel fuels. These are specialised fuels used by auto-manufacturers for testing and calibration.

"Reference fuels produced by IndianOil's Paradip & Panipat Refineries, utilizing the talent available at IndianOil's Research & Development Centre, is a dynamic achievement and it stamps our indigenous technical prowess," said Mr. Puri said at an event. Specification for reference fuels are more stringent than commercial petrol

Hardeep Singh Puri

and diesel and India's demand is currently being met with imports from the U.S. and Europe.

India's demand for Gasoline Reference Fuel is around 120 kilolitre and its diesel counterpart is 15 kilolitre annually as per estimates from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

KARNATAK UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD
DST-SOPHISTICATED ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENT FACILITY (SAIF)
Pavate Nagar, Dharwad-580 003 (Karnataka)
No. KU/DST-SAIF/2023-24/ Date: 26-10-2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement System only)

Tenders are invited under DST-SAIF Programme, for the year 2023-24 from the reputed manufacturing companies/authorized dealers/firms for the supply, installation and commissioning of **Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometer (GCMS).** The University reserves the rights to reject any tender without giving any reason thereof. For more details download the information from the website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

1	Date of uploading the E-tender	26-10-2023
2	Last date of uploading the E-tender	15-11-2023 at 5.00 pm
3	Opening of Technical Bid	16-11-2023 at 5.30 pm
4	Opening of Financial Bid	20-11-2023 at 12.00 noon

Sd/- REGISTRAR

City Municipal Council, Chintamani
E-Procurement (Standard Bidding Document KC-1)Tender Notification No.CMC/ Est/CR/95/2023-24 dated:25-09-2023

Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur District invites tender under E-Procurement on behalf of, The Governor, Government of Karnataka to providing data entry operators as per KTPP 2000 from eligible candidates who have got registered in E-procurement cell Government of Karnataka. For more details log on to website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. (1)** Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **On 30.10.2023 at 17.00 Hrs. (2)** Date & time of opening tenders: **On 31.10.2023 at 17.15 Hrs. Note**: If the tender opening date is declared as a general holiday the oncoming working day will be considered and action will be taken accordingly. **(1) Name of the work:**Providing Computer/Data entry operator (03 Nos) to CMC Office in Chintamani. **Amount put to tender Rs. 891792.69/- Lakhs. EMD to be paid by NEFT Rs. 22300.00/- Time for Completion of work:** Annual. **Eligible participants:** Registered Contractors (In E-procurement). **Grants:**CMC funds.

Sd/-Commissioner, CMC Chintamani
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:124/KSMCA/2023-24

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, P.B. Road, Navanagar, Hubli
Web site : www.hescom.karnataka.gov.in
E-mail : seepmc.hescom@gmail.com
eepmc1.hescom@gmail.com, Tel : (0836) 2223526
Web site : www.hescom.co.in CIN : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P1/AEE-2/2023-24/CYS-3902
Date : 26-10-2023

CORRIGENDUM to TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP Portal Only)

Corrigendum to the tender notification published on 26.10.2023 vide no. HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P1/AEE-2/2023-24/CYS-3848/Dtd: 21.10.2023

As Published	Corrigendum/To be read as
TENDER NOTIFICATION Construction of 11kV link lines from New/existing Substations in HESCOM jurisdiction. Bid Indent No: HESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT66 to 91 (26 packages)	**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION** Construction of 11kV link lines from New/existing Substations in HESCOM jurisdiction. Bid Indent No HESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT66 to 91 (26 packages)

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele), Project Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubli

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/419/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, Dasarahalli Division, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560073.
No: BBMP/EE/DD/Ten/06/2023-24 Date: 26-10-2023
Corrigendum - 01

Sub: Regarding cancellation of tender notification.
Ref: 1. KPP Portal Tender Notification No: BBMP/EE/DD/Ten/06/2023-24 Date: 13.10.2023
With reference to the above subject and reference, the tender called through the KPP portal has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/23-24/4868-74 Date: 25.10.2023
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites Tenders for the following works.

(1) E-procurement Tender No:*KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent199.* Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/ DCA/ EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/Repair of Power Transformer_100MVA, 220/66/11KV Badeladaku(Kudligi) Dated: 25.10.2023_CALL-4 for Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 100MVA, 220/66/11KV, CGL Make, Sl. No.T-10418/2 **at 220/66/11kV Substation Badeladaku (Kudligi)** in 220kV R/S Division, KPTCL, Ittagi, in Kudligi Taluk, Vijayanagara district on total turnkey basis.

(2) E-procurement Tender No:*KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent200.* Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/Tr. (W&M) C/MRB/ DCA/ EE(O)/ AEE-2/T-64/ Repair of Power Transformer_20MVA, 110/33-11KV CHICKSUGUR Dated: 25.10.2023_Call-7 for "Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20MVA, 110/33-11KV, NGEF Make, Sl. No. 2800056400 Year of Manufacture 1997 Lying at 110/11kV Sub-station Chikkasugur in Raichur Taluk, Raichur district on total turnkey basis".

(3) E-procurement Tender No:*KPTCL/2023-24/SS/Work_Indent201.* Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/23-24/PTK/ 400KV Replacement of Spacers/clamps tightening Dt.25.10.2023 for "Replacement of missed /dislocated spacers, spacer clamps and checking Tightening of each phase of existing spacer clamps, bolt and nuts of 400KV D/C Line of BPS-YTPS-1&2 of both circuits of 430 Towers (Labour Charges only), in the jurisdiction of 400 KV TLM Division KPTCL Toranagallu on Partial Turn Key basis in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

(4) E-procurement Tender No:*KPTCL/2023-24/SE0132*
Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/23-24/Data Entry Operators-02 No's & Sweeper-01 No. Dtd:25.10.2023_Call-2 for outsourcing the services of **Data Entry Operator -02 Nos**. (1no at Tr.(W&M) Munirabad & 01 no. at AO(IA), MW Division, Ballari) and **Part time Sweeper-01 No.** (1no. at MWD, Raichur) in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad".

Tenders will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in/** on hyperlink **"EProcurementKPTCL" or directly logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** /on or after **Dtd: 31.10.2023 at 11:00Hrs** details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele., Tr. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad-583233. Ph: 08539-270094

OVER IN A JIFFY

England-Sri Lanka game the shortest of the 2023 World Cup

K. MURALI KUMAR

The England-Sri Lanka match is the shortest completed game of the 2023 edition. After choosing to bat, Jos Buttler's men were bowled out in 33.2 overs before Kusal Mendis' side cruised to the target in 25.4 overs. The previous shortest game was the Australia versus Netherlands match (71 overs) in New Delhi on Wednesday.

NOT GOING RIGHT

England reaches a new low in 25 matches at Chinnaswamy

K. MURALI KUMAR

England recorded the lowest-ever ODI score (156) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium across 25 matches since 1982. The Englishmen succumbed to a third-consecutive defeat in the ODI World Cup for the first time since 1996. Buttler's men became the first defending champion to lose four of their first five games in a World Cup edition.

FIVE ON THE TROT

Sri Lanka continues winning streak against England in World Cups

K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Sri Lanka scored its fifth consecutive win over England in the ODI World Cup to make it 6-6 in 12 meetings. In 2007, the Lankans won by two runs at North Sound while in 2011, they won by 10 wickets in Colombo. The success continued in 2015 when they registered a nine-wicket win in Wellington. In 2019, it was a 20-run win at Leeds.

UNWELCOME RETURN

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan booed by home fans on World Cup break

PTI

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan was jeered by fans on Thursday as he left Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium after a training session on a break from the Cricket World Cup. Shakib, who has scored 56 runs in the four innings, had returned home to work with his mentor Nazmul Abedeen to settle some batting issues.

Sri Lanka piles on England's misery, leaves its title defence in tatters

Samarawickrama and Nissanka add 137 runs to guide the side home after Willey's double strike; Stokes' innings the silver lining with the bat for the Englishmen while the returning Mathews proves to be the golden arm for the Islanders as he picks up two wickets and also effects a run out

Pumped up: Kumara is ecstatic after dismissing England skipper Jos Buttler. K. MURALI KUMAR

ODI WORLD CUP

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

For a little under three hours that the England innings lasted against Sri Lanka, it seemed like the fans at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium were forced to read a bad novel in a single sitting.

None of the batters bothered to engage the audience. There was no attempt to build a narrative and no clarity of thought. It felt like going through antique, clunky prose.

It was no surprise that Jos Buttler's men crashed to a eight-wicket loss on Thursday in what was a must-win World Cup match. England's title defence now lies in tatters, with near-zero possibility of it making the semifinals.

For Sri Lanka, the win will feel like oxygen. Chasing 157, it was reduced to 23 for two as England tried to make a contest out of it. But Pathum Nissanka (77 n.o., 83b, 7x4, 2x6) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (65 n.o., 54b, 7x4, 1x6) put on 137 fine runs to carry Sri Lanka to its second win of the tournament and fifth straight victory over England in World Cups.

Samarawickrama played a tone-setting textbook cover drive off the first ball he faced. The 28-year-old then hoisted Adil Rashid, reverse-swept Moeen Ali before bringing up his half-century off 44 balls.

Nissanka punched, whipped, cut and drove his way through the English bowling. His fifty came via a sublime drive off Mark Wood. It was he who drew the curtains on an abysmal evening for England by hitting Rashid for a splendid six over long-on.

Earlier in the afternoon, after choosing to bat, the English openers were tested during a tricky early phase. Dilshan Madushanka found swing and Jonny Bairstow and Dawid Malan played and missed. Bairstow could have been out leg-before first ball, but Lanka chose not to review.

But the duo stabilised, pierced the off-side for a few delectable boundaries and put on 45 runs. The returning Angelo Mathews, however, proved Lanka's man with a golden arm. He forced Malan to nick one behind off the third ball after being introduced, helped run out Joe Root and prised out Moeen.

Buttler's wretched run continued as his vigil was cut short by a spectacular catch behind the stumps by Kusal Mendis off Lahiru Kumara (three for 35).

The skipper also executed a smart run-out when he collected the ball down the leg-side and ran out Rashid who had backed up too far at the non-striker's end. Ben Stokes played a lone hand (43, 73b, 6x4), and was also helped along as Samarawickrama failed to hold on to a tough chance at backward-point when he was on 12. But an act of resurrection proved beyond even his mighty blade.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Jonny Bairstow c Dhananjaya b Rajitha 30 *(31b, 3x4)*, Dawid Malan c Mendis b Mathews 28 *(25b, 6x4)*, Joe Root run out 3 *(10b)*, Ben Stokes c sub (Hemantha) b Kumara 43 *(73b, 6x4)*, Jos Buttler c Mendis b Kumara 8 *(6b, 1x4)*, Liam Livingstone lbw b Kumara 1 *(6b)*, Moeen Ali c Perera b Mathews 15 *(15b, 1x4)*, Chris Woakes c Samarawickrama b Rajitha 0 *(4b)*, David Willey (not out) 14 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Adil Rashid run out 2 *(7b)*, Mark Wood st. Mendis b Theekshana 5 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-3, w-4): 7; Total (in 33.2 overs): 156.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-45 (Malan, 6.3 overs), 2-57 (Root, 9.4), 3-68 (Bairstow, 13.2), 4-77 (Buttler, 14.5), 5-85 (Livingstone, 16.6), 6-122 (Moeen, 24.4), 7-123 (Woakes, 25.5), 8-137 (Stokes, 30.1), 9-147 (Rashid, 31.5).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Madushanka 5-0-37-0, Rajitha 7-0-36-2, Theekshana 8.2-1-21-1, Mathews 5-1-14-2, Kumara 7-0-35-3, Dhananjaya 1-0-10-0.

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka (not out) 77 *(83b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Kusal Perera c Stokes b Willey 4 *(5b, 1x4)*, Kusal Mendis c Buttler b Willey 11 *(12b, 2x4)*, Sadeera Samarawickrama (not out) 65 *(54b, 7x4, 1x6)*; Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for two wkts. in 25.4 overs): 160.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-9 (Perera, 1.5), 2-23 (Mendis, 5.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Woakes 6-0-30-0, Willey 5-0-30-2, Adil Rashid 4.4-0-39-0, Wood 4-0-23-0, Livingstone 3-0-17-0, Moeen 3-0-21-0.

Toss: England; **PoM:** Kumara.
Sri Lanka won by eight wickets with 146 deliveries to spare.

Next assignment

ENGLAND: October 29 vs. **India,** *Lucknow, 2 p.m.*

SRI LANKA: October 30 vs. **Afghanistan,** *Pune, 2 p.m.*

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India	5	5	0	10	1.353
South Africa	5	4	1	8	2.370
New Zealand	5	4	1	8	1.481
Australia	5	3	2	6	1.142
Sri Lanka	5	2	3	4	-0.205
Pakistan	5	2	3	4	-0.400
Afghanistan	5	2	3	4	-0.969
Bangladesh	5	1	4	2	-1.253
England	5	1	4	2	-1.634
Netherlands	5	1	4	2	-1.902

I have confidence and belief in myself as a leader: Buttler

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

England's disappointing eight-wicket loss to Sri Lanka may have left its World Cup hopes hanging by a thread, but skipper Jos Buttler stressed that he was still the right man to take the team forward.

"I think you're always questioning [your position] as captain," Buttler said on Thursday. "How to get the best out of players... how to get the team moving in the right direction. I certainly have a lot of confidence and belief in myself as a leader, and first and foremost as a player. But if you're asking if I should still be captaining the team, that's a question for the guys above me."

Dreadful numbers

The 33-year-old, however, conceded that his dreadful numbers with the bat (95 runs from five World Cup games) have contributed to his team's shoddy display.

"If there was one golden egg that we were missing, then you'd hope to see that. But there is no secret. There's no one else who can score your own runs or take your wickets.

"That comes from the start, from the captain at the front. I've been a long way short of my best. As a leader, you want to lead through your own performance and I've not been able to do that."

Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana stated that England had underestimated the Lankans.

Nissanka-Samarawickrama... dazzling duo. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

"Because we had also lost three games and we only won against Netherlands, I think they underestimated us," the tweaker said. "We backed our strengths and went with a simple plan. That's why we won the game."

Theekshana credited his bowlers for their discipline. It was, in fact, the third successive game in which England had not batted the full quota of overs.

Experience, discipline

"In the initial four or five overs, we conceded a few runs due to our inability to find the right length," he said. "However, Angelo [Mathews] utilised his experience to adjust the length. Then Lahiru [Kumara] maintained discipline.

"The pitch was a little different [to the earlier ones in Bengaluru]. There was some turn and a little pace and bounce. [But] it is not that accumulating runs was tough, as we managed to score 150 odd with just two wickets down."

Kohli bowls to Rohit in the nets as India trains for England game

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Men in Blue, clad in their orange training jerseys, hit the ground running here on Thursday. As twilight merged into the night at the Ekana Stadium, frogs got busy croaking and a swarm of insects flew around the floodlights. Meanwhile, Rohit Sharma's men limbered up with a spot of fielding drills.

K.L. Rahul. SANDEEP SAXENA

Catches, both high and close-in, were practised and coach Rahul Dravid attempted to clear the ropes while keeping the fielders in the deep, interested. Almost the full squad, with the exception of Mohammed Shami and Ishan Kishan, were present for the optional nets at the venue, which will host Sunday's World Cup game against a beleaguered England.

The sprawling sports campus with an indoor stadium and tennis courts besides the cricket ground, was milling with activity. Indian players hitched a ride in cabs for the short drive to the nearby B ground and it was time for batting and bowling stints. Interestingly, the tail had a long hit with players ranging from Jasprit Bumrah to Kuldeep Yadav testing their willows. Bumrah attempted some sweeps and grinned while Kuldeep cheekily requested a photographer to click his batting pictures.

At the other end of the spectrum, Virat Kohli bowled a bit, especially to Rohit. All the batters had a long stint in the three nets split into pace, spin and throw-downs. Ravindra Jadeja flexed some muscle, attempting sixes and the straight-drilled four. From Bumrah to R. Ashwin, all the bowlers turned their arm over.

It was evident that the think-tank was trying to bolster its batting and bowling flanks especially after Hardik Pandya's left-ankle injury meant that the squad's all-round balance had suffered a rough patch. Rohit also had a long conversation with Mohammed Siraj. The fine-tuning of skill-sets will resume on Friday evening as India seeks to extend its unblemished record so far in this World Cup.

India got its first part right, second act begins

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
LUCKNOW

A few days in the lap of the Himalayas must have done a world of good for the Men in Blue. The break after Sunday's triumphant World Cup contest against New Zealand at Dharamshala's HPCA Stadium helped the players unwind. Some like K.L. Rahul dipped their feet in cold mountain streams.

It was all pastoral and nice, and there was a touch of Ruskin Bond in the air with the slow life being embraced. But now it is time to get sweaty and inflate the laundry bills with team apparel put through the wringer in practice sessions in the days leading up to Sunday's clash at the Ekana Stadium here against England.

Hardik being missed

With a cloud of uncertainty lingering around Hardik Pandya's bruised left ankle, India could step in with a playing eleven similar to the one that turned out against the Black Caps.

Let's do it: India will look to Kohli and Bumrah to continue their form as the tournament progresses. SANDEEP SAXENA

That Hardik's absence needed to be filled with two candidates – a pure batter in Suryakumar Yadav and an original bowler in Mohammed Shami – reveals how much balance the all-rounder lends to the squad. Shardul Thakur's omission was collateral damage in the wake of Hardik's exit as the team had no luxury to field the Mumbaikar, known for effecting breakthroughs and equally notorious for leaking runs, a flaw he masks with handy blows while batting.

If the surface here promises warmth to the slow men, then R. Ashwin could be a contender. That Kuldeep Yadav had a diffident start against New Zealand before pulling back a few may also weigh on the team management's mind.

Low ebb

England is at a low ebb but does have batters, who love a good biff, and Ashwin, with his spells against Chris Gayle and company in the IPL over the years, could be a good counterpoint. As for the other spinner Ravindra Jadeja, his spot is set in stone. Bowling tight, fielding like a dream and chipping in valuable runs, Jadeja is a massive asset.

Besides the selection migraines that Hardik's expected absence stirs up, India needs to be wary about the law of averages.

Remaining undefeated in five games and hoping to extend this winning momentum, Rohit Sharma's men have varied opponents glaring at them on the road ahead. England, Sri Lanka, South Africa and finally the Netherlands, all nurse their fantasies about embarrassing the host.

Even during India's scorching championship run in the 2011 edition, South Africa offered the banana peel at Nagpur despite Sachin Tendulkar's brilliance and England held India to a tie at Bengaluru. Extended league phases work both ways. Squads can shed kinetic energy and lapse into a fatal hibernation, or teams, like what Australia is doing now, could gain a second wind.

India got its first part right and now the second act shimmers into view with Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru being the venues.

Rohit's men have to amplify their efforts and also offer fodder for those warm behind-the-scenes videos from a happy dressing room.

Pakistan in a must-win situation against an in-form South Africa

The campaign of Babar's men, which began with two victories, has nosedived after the defeat against India at Ahmedabad a fortnight ago; Hasan to miss game owing to illness; Proteas' marauding batters have made a mockery of the opposition bowlers by posting four totals above 300

Contrasting moods: South Africa, which is on a roll, will get a boost if Ngidi returns while Pakistan captain Babar has quite a few things to fix. R. RAGU

ODI WORLD CUP

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Ever since going down to India a fortnight ago, Pakistan's campaign has nosedived and its hopes of reaching the last four now rest on a wing and a prayer.

Ahead of the side's World Cup match against South Africa at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Friday, the contrast between the two teams couldn't have been more stark.

With three consecutive defeats, Pakistan may need to win at least three of its remaining fixtures, if not all four. The team has to quickly fix many gaping holes from a misfiring pace attack, ineffective spinners and poor fielding. In a further blow, pacer Hasan Ali is set to miss the crucial game owing to illness.

The only positive has been its batting unit with Mohammad Rizwan, Abdullah Shafique and skipper Babar Azam being the team's consistent performers. Even in the last game against Afghanistan, the batters posted 282 – usually a good score at Chepauk – though the skipper felt the team was about 20 runs short.

Bat with freedom

A way forward for the former champion will be to bat with freedom, out-bat the opposition, and put pressure on South Africa.

Meanwhile, the Proteas come into the game in red-hot form powered by its marauding batters, who have made a mockery of the opposition's bowlers, posting four totals above 300, including the highest of the tournament – 428 against Sri Lanka.

Opener Quinton de Kock has set things up for South Africa, giving a steady start with three hundreds to his name, while Heinrich Klaasen has provided the final flourish with a masterclass in power-hitting.

A possible area of concern, though, will be that the team's wins have come while successfully defending totals, and in the one game it was chasing, it stumbled against The Netherlands.

There could also be a few changes with skipper Temba Bavuma having recovered from an illness and pacer Lungi Ngidi likely to return.

Left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi is also in contention in place of a fast bowler. With four victories in the bag, South Africa will look to continue its winning form against a misfiring Pakistan and inch closer to a semifinal berth.

Today's match

Pakistan vs. South Africa

Chennai, 2 p.m.

H2H IN ODIs

Played 82

Pakistan	South Africa	NR
30	51	1

EYE ON THE SKY

High: 35°C
Low: 25°C
Partly cloudy

SOURCE: IMD

Bavuma urges team not to be complacent against 'mercurial' Pakistan side

Expect the unexpected: Bavuma knows he can rely on de Kock in a difficult situation while chasing. R. RAGU

Lavanya L
CHENNAI

Ahead of its World Cup league stage clash against Pakistan, South Africa is wary of getting complacent around a team seeking to set its fortunes right.

"Pakistan are a dangerous team. We know that they haven't played close to their best, but tomorrow could be that and we want to make sure we are ready for that," SA skipper Temba Bavuma said.

The 33-year-old emphasised on the utility of Tabraiz Shamsi's left-arm wrist spin against Pakistan, which has shown a weakness to spin.

South Africa is yet to win batting second but Bavuma is unfazed about the prospect of doing so in Chennai.

"I watched the Afghanistan game with Pakistan and it seemed to get a lot better batting under lights. I think we know somewhere along the line in the tournament we'll have to bat second.

"And I think the conversations that we've had as batters is to find ways as to how we can still follow that same process that we follow when we're batting first," he said.

While the Proteas are cruising in the top half of the table, Pakistan will need a win to infuse some optimism into their World Cup campaign and Bavuma is aware of what a motivator fear can be for a cricket team.

"I saw a comment that described Pakistan as mercurial. I had to Google the word, but it spoke about how a team can be good one day and not so good the other day. So, we want to make sure that when they're good, we are so good as well," he said.

We always bounce back, hopefully we will do it again: Shadab Khan

Lalith Kalidas
CHENNAI

All is well: Shadab dismissed reports of rifts in the team which is on a three-match losing streak. R. RAGU

Pakistan leg-spinner Shadab Khan was admirably honest towards the end of an exhaustive pre-match press conference at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium about the road ahead for his side in the World Cup.

"We are not performing in all the departments, which is why the team is at this stage. Our poor form is understood in batting and bowling.

"If you drop catches or give easy boundaries in such batting-friendly conditions, there is no pressure on the batter and eventually costs us," the 25-year-old said, ahead of the team's clash against South Africa here.

An hour before its optional training session, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) issued a release to clear the air regarding any rifts within the team and a peek into Babar Azam's captaincy future.

Shadab also defied the emerging reports of unrest in the side and affirmed that the team has been on the same page despite its three-match losing streak.

"We always bounce back, and hopefully, we will do it again. I don't think the fight(ing spirit) of the team is missing.

"When you don't perform, when you don't win, everyone has their opinion. They can talk and criticise. But our focus is to just try and win the game for Pakistan, that's it," he added.

Pakistan needs to win its remaining fixtures and hope other results go its way for a shot at the semifinals.

Dutch skipper Edwards hopeful of keeping the group together for long time

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW DELHI

Turning it around: Edwards credits coach Ryan Cook for his development as a cricketer. AFP

It was a crushing defeat for the Netherlands on Wednesday, as it was blown away by a storm called Glenn Maxwell. But, the Dutchmen are determined to put the 309-run loss to Australia behind them and to bring back their energy and self-belief that helped them stun South Africa.

In Scott Edwards, who scored a 69-ball 78 not out in that game, they have a captain who isn't too excited about a great win or too dispirited at a disappointing loss. The wicket-keeper batter has been leading this side admirably.

The Tonga-born, Australia-raised skipper has high ambitions about the Netherlands. "We have a lot of youngsters in the team," Edwards told *The Hindu*. "We have a young group, which we hopefully could keep this group together for a long time, and to continue working with coach Ryan Cook. When I took over as the captain, I was sort of just trying to get my feet and just play good cricket as a unit. From there, Ryan and I started coming up with some plans and goals for the team."

Those goals include playing bilateral series against stronger teams. "We are hoping that our performances will give us the opportunity to have bilateral series against teams," he said. "The more and more we play against top nations in the world, the better and better we are going to get."

Edwards, who has a Dutch passport because of his grandmother, feels he has developed as a cricketer after beginning to play for the Netherlands. "In Dutch cricket, you sort of get thrown into the deep end a little bit," he said. "You go from playing club cricket straight to playing international cricket against the best teams in the world."

But by pushing behind the West Indies, Zimbabwe and Ireland, all Test-playing nations at the World Cup Qualifier, and beating South Africa in the T20 and ODI World Cups, Edwards and his men have proved that a country where only about 5,000 people play cricket deserves more opportunities.

National Games: fencer Bhavani Devi dominates

ANI
PANAJI

Olympian fencer Bhavani Devi, representing Tamil Nadu, continued her domination in the National circuit, winning gold in the women's sabre individual fencing competition on Thursday in the 37th National Games being held here. Bhavani beat S. Sowmiya of Kerala 15-5 in the final to win back-to-back gold medals.

Shiksha Ballouria of Himachal Pradesh and Jagmeet Kaur of Punjab won bronze medals.

Babu Gaonkar gave the hosts its first gold medal of the games after winning the men's laser run event in Modern Pentathlon at Ponda.

Important results:

Weightlifting: Women: 59kg: Popy Hazarika (Assam); Davinder Kaur (Punjab); M. Deepanayomi (Andhra Pradesh). **Men: 67kg:** Lalhunthara (Mizoram); Subhash Lahre (SSCB); Bengia Tani (Arunachal Pradesh).

Gymnastics: Artistic Gymnastics: Men: Yogeshwar Singh (Haryana); Sidharth Verma (Uttar Pradesh); Gaurav Kumar (SSCB).

Women: Pranati Nayak (Odisha); Pranati Das (West Bengal); Shraddha Talekar (Maharashtra).

Modern Pentathlon: Laser Run: Men: Babu Gaonkar (Goa); Ajay (Haryana); Ravi (Haryana). **Women:** Ujjala (Haryana); Yoginee Umakant Salunke (Maharashtra); Neha Yadav (Madhya Pradesh). **Team: Men:** Haryana; Madhya Pradesh; Maharashtra. **Women:** Madhya Pradesh; Maharashtra; Goa. **Mixed Relay**: Anju and Ravi (Haryana); Seeta Gosavi and Babu Gaonkar (Goa); Yoginee Salunke and Sahaji Sargar (Maharashtra).

Bhavani being declared the winner. PTI

Fencing: Women's sabre: C.A. Bhavani Devi (Tamil Nadu); S. Sowmiya (Kerala); Jagmeet Kaur (Punjab; Shiksha Ballouria (Himachal Pradesh). **Men's foil:** Arjun (SSCB); Bibish Kathiresan (SSCB); Dev (Haryana); Konsam Denny Singh (Manipur).

Rugby 7s: Women: Quarterfinals: Odisha bt Karnataka 64-0; Bihar bt Delhi 53-0.

Group Stages: Women: Pool A: Odisha bt Kerala 25-0; Bihar bt Goa 30-0. **Pool B:** Maharashtra bt West Bengal 15-0; Delhi bt Karnataka 17-15.

Men: Pool A: Haryana bt Odisha 17-10, Kerala bt Goa 22-10. **Pool B:** Maharashtra bt West Bengal 24-19, Bihar bt Punjab 26-5.

Basketball 3x3: Women: Pool A: Chattisgarh bt Goa 22-04, Telangana bt Chattisgarh 22-04, Telangana bt Goa 21-03, Kerala bt Goa 21-07, Telangana bt Kerala 21-15. **Pool B:** Delhi bt Tamil Nadu 14-12.

Men: Pool A: Rajasthan bt Tamil Nadu 21-10, Delhi bt Tamil Nadu 18-11, Delhi bt Goa 21-13, Rajasthan bt Goa 21-18. **Pool B:** Punjab bt Kerala 18-12, Madhya Pradesh bt Telangana 21-13.

Netball: Fast 5: Men: Pool A: Haryana bt Rajasthan 36-28, Goa bt Rajasthan 40-28, Haryana bt Uttar Pradesh 32-21. **Pool B:** Kerala bt Karnataka 27-26, Delhi bt Punjab 24-23.

Women: Pool A: Himachal Pradesh bt Goa 24-15, Haryana bt Kerala 26-14, Haryana bt Himachal Pradesh 29-26, Kerala bt Goa 26-24. **Pool B:** Punjab bt Chandigarh 20-13, Telangana bt Delhi 26-16, Telangana bt Punjab 21-17, Delhi bt Chandigarh 26-18.

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
CRICKET WORLD CUP
TRIVIA CHALLENGE
1. In the 2003 ODI World Cup, against which team did John Davison of Canada scored 31 off 32 balls and took 3 wickets for 15 runs in his 10 overs, including 3 maidens?
2. Who along with Andy Roberts made his ODI debut in the 1975 ODI World Cup game against Sri Lanka?
3. Who became the first bowler from a non-test playing nation to achieve the double of 1500 runs and 100 wickets in ODIs during the 2007 ODI World Cup?
Visit bit.ly/wctcterms to read the Terms & Conditions.
Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz. Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. R Ashwin
2. Marlon Samuels
3. Javed Miandad

Sheetal-Rakesh duo, Khilari, and Sidhartha add more golden sheen

With 18 medals, including three silver, on Thursday, India takes its overall tally to a record 82 medals; Simran, Bhagyashri and Monu take second place in various track and field events; para badminton stars claim six bronze

ASIAN PARA GAMES

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU

Indian athletes added 18 medals, including three gold, on Thursday as the nation notched up the highest number of medals ever in the Asian Para Games with a tally of 82 that includes 18 gold and 23 silver medals.

India has now gone past the earlier best of 72 medals achieved in the 2018 edition in Indonesia. Its position in the overall tally, however, dropped two places to eight, as not too many gold medals were won on Thursday.

South Korea and Indonesia moved ahead of India in the medals tally led by China (156 gold, 128 silver, 108 bronze).

Target of 100

With two more days left in the Games, the country is on course of achieving its target of 100 medals in this edition of the Games.

Sachin Sarjerao Khilari won the first gold of the day in men's F46 shot put with a Games record throw of 16.03m.

Eight medals were won by track and field athletes on Thursday.

Overall, athletics has contributed 45 medals, including 14 gold.

Para shooter Sidhartha Babu bagged a gold in R6 mixed 50m rifle prone SH1 event as he shot an Asian Para Games score of 247.7.

In archery, the compound mixed team of Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar triumphed after defeating their Chinese counterparts Lin Yueshan and Ai Xinliang 151-149 in the final.

Other medallists:

Athletics: Silver: Simran (women's T12 100m), Bhagyashri Madhavrao Jadhav (women's F34 shot put), Monu Ghangas (men's F11 discus).

Bronze: Rohit Kumar (men's F46 shot put), Narayan Thakur (men's T35 100m), Shreyansh Trivedi (men's T37 100m), Muthuraja (men's F55 shot put).

Archery: Bronze: Adil Mohamed

Sidhartha (R6 mixed 50m rifle prone SH1).

Nazir Ansari & Naveen Dalal (men's doubles W1 event).

Badminton: Bronze: Sukant Indukant Kadam (men's singles SL4), Sivan Nithya Sumathy (women's singles SH6), Manisha Ramadass (women's singles SU5), Mandeep Kaur & Manisha Ramadass (women's doubles SL3-SU5), Krishna Nagar & Sivarajan Solaimalai (men's doubles SH6), Pramod Bhagat & Sukant Indukant Kadam (men's doubles SL3-SL4).

Chess: Bronze: Bhaveshkumar Rathi Himanshi (women's individual standard VI-B1).

Golden Moment: Sheetal and Rakesh took the honours in compound open mixed team archery event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Indians will be hoping to reset their performance

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

Less than a month ago, the Indian women's hockey team ended a disappointing third at the Asian Games, getting a medal but forcing a reset of the team's plans over its Paris Olympics ambitions and qualification.

On Friday, the players will be hoping to reset their performance as well when they take on Thailand on the opening day of the Asian Champions Trophy here, going back to the drawing board for the tough road ahead.

Despite being the highest ranked side in the competition, India was dismantled by host and eventual champion China in the semifinals at Hangzhou, losing 4-0 before managing a bronze medal and podium finish. But it appeared a confused and erratic side.

Momentum

At the Asian Champions Trophy, at least three of the six participating teams – Japan and Korea being the other two – will be keen to get back some momentum before the Olympic Qualifiers in January.

Important event: India's show may give captain Savita and coach Schopman enough pointers to be ready for Olympic Qualifiers. ANI

Winning the title will be huge for the side, which rarely gets to play in front of home crowd, but more importantly it might give coach Janneke Schopman and captain Savita enough pointers to be ready for the Qualifiers in two months' time.

India has retained the Asiad squad barring two – experienced Sushila Chanu is injured and youngster Vashnavi Phalke is in reserves – making way for Jyoti and Baljeet Kaur.

With the City hosting the Olympic Qualifiers, it will be an advantage for the Indian team to get a feel of the newly-laid turf at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium.

Everything will count

With some big names in world hockey including Germany and Britain yet to qualify, every little bit will count.

Friday's games:
Japan vs Malaysia (4 p.m.).
China vs Korea (6.15 p.m.).
India vs Thailand (8.30 p.m.).

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
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No. OHPC: TECH: C&P: 18/2023-24/ 9819 /Date: 25.10.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No. 20 /2023-24

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LIMITED invites sealed tenders in two parts i.e. (i) Techno Commercial Bid & (ii) Price bid in separate sealed envelopes from all General Insurance Companies approved by IRDA, who meet the eligibility criteria for **Industrial All Risk Insurance Policy and Stand Alone Terrorism Policy for its Hydro Power Generating units at BHEP Balimela, UKHEP Bariniput, UIHEP Mukhiguda, HHEP Burla, CHEP Chiplima, and RHEP Rengali** as stated in the Invitation to bid.

For details of the tender documents, terms & conditions please visit/ refer our website www.ohpcltd.com from 31.10.2023.

C & P Head
CAD-2598 OIPR-04012/11/0024/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone : 0680-2281582, e-mail : ccescbam@gmail.com

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-19/2023-24 **No. 4407 // Dated :19.10.2023**

1) The **Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha Invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of **Bridge Works** as detailed in the table below.

2) Nature of work	: Bridge Works
3) No. of work	: 3 Nos.
4) Tender Cost	: Rs.10,000/- (online)
5) Class of Contractor	: "A" Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the website	: From 27.10.2023 10.00 AM to 10.11.2023 5.30 PM
7) Date of Opening of Bid	: 13.11.2023 at 11.30 A.M.

8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**.
9) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/- (D C.Behera)
Chief Construction Engineer
Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur
B-1138 OIPR-34103/11/0020/2324

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, KEONJHAR
(ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI (ZSS), KEONJHAR)

Advt. Letter No: **4979** Date **25.10.2023**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR "SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT OF MAHAPRAYAN (DEAD BODY CARRIER) VEHICLE IN KEONJHAR DISTRICT, UNDER DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION (DMF), KEONJHAR"

A Request For Proposal (RFP) is invited from the reputed and experienced Agencies / Organizations / Firms for **"Operations & Management of Mahaprayan (Dead Body Carrier) Vehicle in Keonjhar District, under District Mineral Foundation (DMF), Keonjhar"**. The eligibility criteria and detailed requirements for said RFP and the formats for submission of the proposal are set forth in the RFP document which can be downloaded from the district NIC Website i.e. **www.kendujhar.nic.in**. Interested bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their proposal, and documents as set forth in this RFP and submit to the undersigned in sealed envelope (s) clearly superscribing

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR "SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT OF MAHAPRAYAN (DEAD BODY CARRIER) VEHICLE IN KEONJHAR DISTRICT, UNDER DISTRICT MINERAL FOUNDATION (DMF), KEONJHAR".

Proposal complete in all respects should reach the Office of the **'Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer (CDM&PHO), Keonjhar, DHH, Keonjhar, 758001, Odisha'** by Speed Post / Regd. Post/Courier only on or before **date 05.12.2023 before 5.30 PM**. The proposal(s) shall be opened on date **06.12.2023 at 11.30 AM** in NHM Conference Hall, DHH, Keonjhar. Incomplete applications received in an open envelope/applications received after the due date will be summarily rejected.

The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject any of the RFPs without assigning any of the reasons thereof. No personal query shall be entertained. The decisions of the committees shall be treated as final.

Sd/- Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer (CDM&PHO), Keonjhar
E-500 OIPR-10033/11/0032/2324

Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA)
Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
777, Saatvik Tower, Kaulagarh Road, Rajendra Nagar, Dehradun
Telephone +91-135-2753894, Tele-fax +91-135-2754895
Emaii: uusdip@gmail.com, Website: www.uusdip.org

Adv. No: UUSDA/P-93/1347 **Date:- 26.10.2023**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand has applied for a loan from Asian Development Bank for financing the **Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project (ULIP), in the State of Uttarakhand**. The Project involves development of urban infrastructure facilities like 24X7 Water Supply including Road Restoration in the proposed Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for works.

The **"Program Director"**, Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA), Government of Uttarakhand" **(the Employer)** invites online bids through the Uttarakhand state e-procurement portal https://uktenders.gov.in, from eligible Bidders for the design, execution, commissioning, and O&M of the work as detailed below:

Name of Work	Package No.	Invitation of Bid No.	Last Date & Time of Submission
Development of Water Supply System with 18 years O&M, at Kichha in Uttarakhand.	WS-KCH-01	ULIP/OCB -I/ WS-KCH-01/2023-24	30th November 2023 till 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)

Date of publication of bid document	27.10.2023 at 03:00PM, (15:00 Hrs.)
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	09.11.2023 at 11:30 AM, (11:30 Hrs.)
Bid document may be uploaded from	25.11.2023 at 03:00PM, (15:00 Hrs.)
Last Date/Time for downloading of the bid document	30.11.2023 at 02:30PM, (14:30 Hrs.)

The prospective bidders can download the detailed bid document in the prescribed format and upload the bid on the website, https://uktenders.gov.in. Program Director, UUSDA reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the website https://uktenders.gov.in.

Program Director
UUSDA

"हमारा संकल्प आपका सहयोग बेहतर कल"

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise and group company of IndianOil)
Regd. Office: 536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018
Website: www.cpcl.co.in ; Email id: investors@cpcl.co.in, shankarp@cpcl.co.in
Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807
CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		Three Months Ended			Six Months Ended		Year Ended	Three Months Ended			Six Months Ended		Year Ended
		30.09.2023	30.06.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	31.03.2023	30.09.2023	30.06.2023	30.09.2022	30.09.2023	30.09.2022	31.03.2023
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations	20009.70	17985.67	22894.37	37995.37	50343.89	90908.27	20009.78	17985.87	22894.23	37995.65	50343.80	90908.30
	Other Income	5.13	2.15	9.70	7.28	11.40	15.12	2.35	2.15	1.77	4.50	3.47	7.19
	Total Income	**20014.83**	**17987.82**	**22904.07**	**38002.65**	**50355.29**	**90923.39**	**20012.13**	**17988.02**	**22896.00**	**38000.15**	**50347.27**	**90915.49**
	Total Expenditure	18426.97	17240.38	22868.57	35667.35	47120.49	86114.69	18427.03	17240.53	22868.37	35667.56	47120.38	86114.73
2.	**Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)**	**1587.86**	**747.44**	**35.50**	**2335.30**	**3234.80**	**4808.70**	**1592.71**	**755.62**	**24.55**	**2348.33**	**3222.68**	**4806.42**
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1587.86	747.44	35.50	2335.30	3234.80	4808.70	1592.71	755.62	24.55	2348.33	3222.68	4806.42
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1190.56	548.32	27.88	1738.88	2386.67	3533.81	1195.41	556.50	16.93	1751.91	2374.55	3531.53
5.	**Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]**	**1190.56**	**548.32**	**27.88**	**1738.88**	**2386.67**	**3520.51**	**1195.41**	**556.50**	**16.93**	**1751.91**	**2374.55**	**3518.13**
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				7218.83	4748.18	5882.01				7425.98	4932.58	6076.13
8.	Securities Premium Account				250.04	250.04	250.04				250.04	250.04	250.04
9.	Networth				7617.78	5147.13	6280.96				7824.93	5331.53	6475.08
10.	Paid up Debt Captial / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				2730.00	2730.00	1585.00				2730.00	2,730.00	1585.00
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 {2022:50,00,00,000} Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)				500.00	500.00	500.00				500.00	500.00	500.00
12.	Debt Equity Ratio				0.45	1.45	0.67				0.43	1.40	0.65
13.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)												
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	79.95	36.82	1.87	116.77	160.27	237.31	80.28	37.37	1.14	117.65	159.46	237.16
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	79.95	36.82	1.87	116.77	160.27	237.31	80.28	37.37	1.14	117.65	159.46	237.16
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve				1000.00	1000.00	1000.00				1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio				12.51	6.00	2.39				12.59	5.97	2.39
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio				22.57	26.50	17.30				22.67	26.41	17.29

Note: 1

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Rohit Kumar Agrawala
Director (Finance)
DIN: 10048961

Place : Chennai
Date : October 25, 2023

REQUIRED PRINCIPAL FOR ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, GOLCONDA
(CBSE AFFILIATED)

Existing Vacancy Apply to

Army Public School Located at	Upto Class	Application be forwarded to
Army Public School, Golconda Hydershakote, Near Suncity, Hyderabad – 500 031	XII (Senior Secondary School)	The Director, HQ Southern Comd (AWES) (Pune-411001) Pin – 908 541 C/o 56 APO **E-mail : dirawes.sc@awesindia.edu.in**

Qualification & Experience : As per CBSE Bye-Laws. **Master Degree of recognized University and B.Ed / M Ed is mandatory.** At least 3 yrs experience of administrative charge of recognized College/5 yrs administrative charge of recognized High School/5 yrs teaching experience in recognized Higher Secondary School/Teachers Training Institute/ 8 yrs TGTs/ 5 yrs including 3 yrs educational administrative and 2 yrs teaching experience in a recognized High or Hr Sec School or teachers Training Institute.
Age : Below 55 Years (Ex-servicemen below 57 Years).
Pay & Allowances : Negotiable, along with the other perks as per CBSE guidelines. Special incentives for outstanding meritorious candidates.
Selection Process : Through panel interviews **(only candidates short listed, based on qualification, experience and other criteria as may be considered by the management, will be called for interview).**
How to Apply : Apply as per format of Biodata : Principal, available on APS, Golconda Website : **'www.apsgolconda.edu.in'** including experience (TGT / PGT / Vice Principal / Principal / Administrative with period (From–To) of appointment, School/College/Institute, to be supported with certificates/testimonials, e-mail ID, mobile number and postal address.
Only hard copy of application with supporting documents will be considered.
Last date for receipt of application :**27 Nov 2023.**
(No TA/DA admissible)

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

ADMISSION NOTICE No. 03/2024

Online applications are invited for admission to the following courses for the January 2024 session through Computer Based Test (CBT) at various cities across the country as per detail given below:

Courses	Date of Exam	Starting Date for online application	Closing Date for online application
Ph.D	10.12.2023	28.10.2023	17.11.2023
Fellowship/ Post Doctoral Fellowship			
House Job (Dental)			
M.Sc/ M.Sc (MLT)			
Mode of payment - Through Debit/Credit Card/Net Banking only (except UPI)			

For eligibility criteria, number of seats and other details, applicants are advised to read the prospectus and instructions given there in carefully before starting online registration and filling of application form. The prospectus of admission is available on Institute's website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in. The candidates are requested to visit the PGIMER website regularly for all subsequent changes/ updation for entrance examination/communications/ addendum/ corrigendum.

REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
(Email id- cemi.odisha@gmail.com . Telephone no- 0674-2391525)
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice.
Bid Identification No-CE/MI/EPC/03/23-24

Letter No: W-III-WSIDP (T)-01/2023/11811 **Dated 20-10-2023**

Online tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Construction of Head Works of Jhanjabati Barrage Project (In-stream storage structure) in Narayanpatna Block of Koraput District across river Jhanjabati in State of Odisha including Hydro-Mechanical Works, Power Connectivity Works, Road Connectivity, Staff Quarters with Design and estimate of all Components and Operation & Maintenance of the project for a Period of five years or five Flood Seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the project on **EPC Contract**.

1	**Name of Work**	Construction of Head Works of Jhanjabati Barrage Project (In-stream storage structure) in Narayanpatna Block of Koraput District across river Jhanjabati in State of Odisha including Hydro-Mechanical Works, Power Connectivity Works, Road Connectivity, Staff Quarters with Design and estimate of all Components and Operation & Maintenance of the project for a Period of **Five years or Five Flood Seasons** whichever is more after successful commissioning of the project.
2	**Approximate Value of work put to Tender**	**Rs. 99,78,78,000.00** (Excluding GST)
3	**Period of completion**	**24 calendar months** including rainy season.
4	**Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal**	**Dt 27.10.2023 from 11.30 AM to Dt.20.11.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.**
5	**Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal**	**Dt.20.11.2023 up-to 5.30 P.M.**
6	**Name & address of the officer inviting Bid**	Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation (Odisha) H.O.D. Building, Keshari Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
A-698 OIPR-32032/11/0006/2324

TAMIL NADU VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY
Office of ICAR-NAHEP-IDP of TANUVAS
Madras Veterinary College, Vepery, Chennai - 600 007.

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

Bids are requested for the procurement of **"Digital Microscope with Accessories 2 nos"** under ICAR- NAHEP-IDP of TANUVAS scheme. The bidding document may be downloaded free of cost from **www.tanuvas.ac.in** and **www.idpoftanuvas.com** Starting date for downloading bids: **28/10/2023, 10:00 AM** Last date for downloading bids: **26/11/2023, 5:00 PM** Last date for submission of bids: **27/11/2023, 3:00 PM** Date of opening of bids:**27/11/2023, 4:00 PM** Questions to be addressed by mail to **idp@tanuvas.org.in**

Professor and Head & IDP Coordinator, MVC, TANUVAS, Chennai - 600 007.

DIPR/5742/Tender/2023

INBRIEF

Injured Sindhu concedes match; Satwik-Chirag exit

P.V. Sindhu was leading by a game when she conceded her French Open second round match against Thailand's Supanida Katethong due to a knee injury at Rennes on Thursday. Later, third-seeded Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were stunned by Indonesia's Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan 23-25, 21-19, 19-21 in the round of 16.

Aditi in tied 10th place at Maybank Championship

India's Aditi Ashok spoiled a superb looking round with a double bogey on the closing hole but still shot 5-under 67 to be placed tied 10th after the first round of the Maybank Championship golf tournament at Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. From tied-second at one point she was tied-10th.

Newcastle's Tonali banned for 10 months for betting

Newcastle midfielder Sandro Tonali was banned for 10 months by the Italian football federation on Thursday for betting on teams he played for – ruling him out of the rest of the Premier League season as well as competing for Italy at next year's European Championship.

SMAT matches on Friday

Group-A: At Jaipur: Mizoram vs Mumbai; Haryana vs Hyderabad; Chhattisgarh vs J&K; Baroda vs Meghalaya (D/N)
Group-B: At Mumbai: Himachal Pradesh vs Sikkim; Assam vs Kerala; Bihar vs Services; Chandigarh vs Odisha (D/N)
Group-C: At Ranchi: Arunachal Pradesh vs Punjab; Goa vs Saurashtra; Gujarat vs Manipur; Andhra vs. Railways (D/N)
Group-D: At Mohali: Puducherry vs Uttarakhand; Maharashtra vs Rajasthan; Jharkhand vs Vidarbha (D/N)
Group-E: At Dehradun: Nagaland vs Tamil Nadu; Madhya Pradesh vs Uttar Pradesh; Karnataka vs Tripura (D/N)

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: French Open, Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 p.m. onwards
Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 & Hotstar, 2 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1& Jio Cinema App, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Mbappe-inspired PSG outclasses Milan

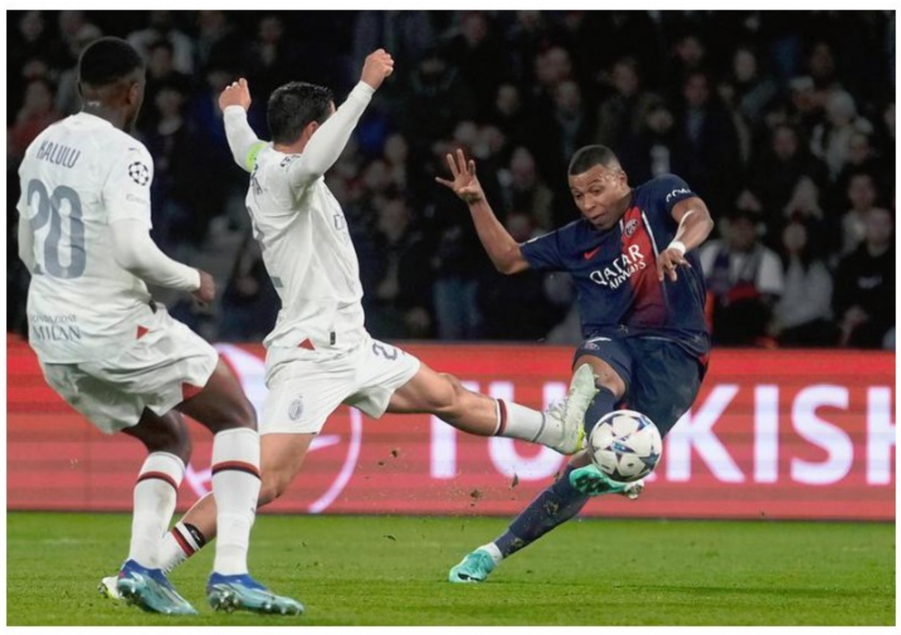
The French giant goes back to the top; Haaland hits a brace as Man City registers a facile win; Barcelona gets the better of Shakhtar

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Kylian Mbappe helped Paris Saint-Germain move top of Champions League Group F with a 3-0 victory over AC Milan on Wednesday, while Erling Haaland was back on the scoresheet as Manchester City won 3-1 away to Young Boys.

Barcelona saw out a win at home 2-1 against Shakhtar Donetsk, thanks to first-half strikes from Ferran Torres and Fermin Lopez, making it three from three for the Group H leader.



First salvo: PSG's talismanic striker Mbappe broke the deadlock against AC Milan. AP

Deadlock broken
In Paris, the deadlock was broken just after the half-hour mark when Mbappe received the ball from Warren Zaire-Emery, unbalanced Fikayo Tomori and then wrong-footed compatriot Mike Maignan with a smart, low finish.

Ousmane Dembele thought he had doubled the host's advantage on 50 minutes only for a VAR check to disallow it for a foul in the build-up.

Kolo Muani, the third member of PSG's French front three, then did double the lead three minutes later with a close-range tap-in shot before Lee struck.

Newcastle came back to earth with a home defeat by Borussia Dortmund, which saw the Germans move above it into second place on head-to-head. Nmecha gave Borussia the deserved lead at the stroke of half-time.

Manchester City made it three from three to top Group G, with Manuel Akanji's goal and a Haaland brace seeing off Young Boys in Switzerland.

Man City endured a frustrating first period on a plastic pitch in Bern, with Young Boys goalkeeper Anthony Racioppi producing several fine saves.

Immediately after half-time a stunning save from the Swiss 'keeper saw the ball rebound off the crossbar and fall straight to Akanji.

Early reverse
The host stunned the Champions League holder on 52 minutes when Meschack Elia broke clear of the defence and lobbed a finish over the advancing Ederson.

However, hopes of an upset were extinguished when Haaland broke his five-game goal drought in the competition with a penalty in the 67th minute.

After a Julian Alvarez goal was disallowed, the Norwegian striker produced a fine finish to round off a 3-1 win.

The results:
Group E: Feyenoord 3 (Gimenez 31, 74, Zerrouki 45+2) bt Lazio 1 (Pedro 83-pen); Celtic 2 (Furuhashi 4, Palma 28) drew with Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 25, Morata 53).
Group F: Newcastle 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 1 (Nmecha 45); Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Mbappe 32, Kolo Muani 53, Lee 89) bt AC Milan 0.
Group G: Young Boys 1 (Elia 52) lost to Manchester City 3 (Akanji 48, Haaland 67-pen, 86); RB Leipzig 3 (Raum 12, Simons 59, Olmo 84) bt Red Star Belgrade 1 (Stamenic 70).
Group H: Barcelona 2 (Torres 28, Lopez 36) bt Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Sudakov 62); Antwerp 1 (Yussuf 37) lost to Porto 4 (Evanilson 46, 69, 84, Eustaquio 54).

Harmehar clinches junior men's skeet gold

ASIAN SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Harmehar Singh Lally won the junior men's skeet gold, beating compatriot Bhavtegh Singh Gill 52-50 in the 15th Asian shooting championship in Changwon, Korea, on Thursday.

Harmehar in partnership with Bhavtegh and Ritu Raj Bundela helped the team win gold.

Sabekova wins
In junior women's skeet, qualification topper Raiza Dhillon (116) was beaten to the gold 49-47 by Diana Sabekova of Kazakhstan. Raiza won the team gold in the company of Muffaddal Zahra Deesawala and Sanjana Ssood.

In the 50-metre free pistol Grand Prix event, India won the men's silver through Ravinder Singh, and junior silver through Kamaljeet.

The results:
Skeet: **Junior men**: 1. Harmehar Lally 52 (117); 2. Bhavtegh Gill 50 (113); 3. Wu Yunxuan (Chn) 42 (115); 4. Abhay Sekhon 34 (114); 8. Ritu Raj Bundela 112.
Team: 1. India 342; 2. Kazakhstan 330; 3. Korea 301.
Junior women: 1. Diana Ssabekova (Kaz) 49 (108); 2. Raiza Dhillon 47 (116); 3. Jiang Chaoyu (Chn) 39 (112); 6. Muffaddal Deesawala 11 (110); 7. Sanjana Sood 106. **Team**: 1. India 332; 2. Kazakhstan 311; 3. Korea 270.
50m free pistol: **Men**: 1. Choe Boram (Kor) 558; 2. Ravinder Singh 556; 3. Lim Hojin 555; 8. Amanpreet Singh 546; 11. Aniket Khidsse 534; 12. Ram Babu 530; **Women**: 1. Lee Junseop (Kor) 545; 2. Kamaljeet 543; 3. Kim Hyunsu (Kor) 542; 5. Suresh Sankhla 538; 8. Ankait Tomar 521.

China edges Japan to claim cross-country gold medal

MOUNTAIN BIKE

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

China pipped Japan at the finish to win cross-country relay gold in the 28th Asian Mountain Bike championships on Thursday.

The Chinese team comprising Wang Zili, Badan Shiqu, Chen Keyu, Ma Caixia, Lyu Xianjing came first in 1:03.24.10s, while Japan timed 1:03.43.17s to finish ahead of Kazakhstan (1:05.55.15s). India finished seventh in the nine team event.

Japanese rider Toki Sawada established an early lead after the first lap and the second rider Riki Kitabayashi managed to maintain it. However, China's Ma Caixia, who won silver in the cross-country event in the Hangzhou Asian Games, whittled down the gap and took the lead in the third lap.

Champion: The victorious Chinese squad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Japan wrested back the lead in the fourth before the final lap saw a tight race between China's Lyu Xianjing and Japan Tatsuumi Soejima. The former outsprinted Tatsuumi at the finish to pocket the gold for China.

"We rested our main riders for this race. It was in fact our second-string team. It was a tight race but I think our familiarity with the terrain and track helped us to win and I am happy with the team's performance," said Chinese coach Yi jian.

The results:
Cross-country relay elite: 1. China (1:03.24.10), 2. Japan (1:03.43.17), 3. Kazakhstan (1:05.55.15).

Bhambri-Cash combine makes the quarterfinals

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Yuki Bhambri and Julian Cash beat Anirudh Chandrasekar and Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-4, 6-2 in the pre-quarterfinals of the €118,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Brest, France, on Thursday.

Other results:
$80,000 ITF women, Tyler, USA: First round: Martha Matoula (Gre) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Chieh-Yu Hsu (Tpe) & Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Lia Karatancheva (Bul) & Maria Kononova 1-6, 6-3, [10-6].
$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Amelia Waligora (Bel) bt Jennifer Luikham 7-5, 6-2.

Soham and Riana clinch under-15 titles

UTT

Sports Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Eighth seeded Soham Mukherjee of West Bengal continued his impressive run to beat teammate and arch-rival Rupam Sadar 11-6, 8-11, 13-11, 11-5 to win the boys under-15 title in the UTT National-ranking table tennis tournament at the Jimmy George indoor stadium here on Thursday.

The aggressive Soham Mukherjee didn't give any leeway to his higher ranked Rupam who struggled to find his range and committed many unforced errors in the first.

Rupam made a brief comeback as he cut down the errors to win the second set and matched his rival for major part of the third set. Soham managed to keep his nerve to win the closely contested third set at 13-11.

The loss of the third set deflated Rupam as Soham easily won the fourth to win the match.

Riana Bhoota (Maharashtra) outsmarted top seed and favourite Avisha Karmakar (Delhi) 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-2 to win the girls title. Riana bounced back after losing the first set.

She forced Avisha to play to her strength and induced mistakes from the top seed. Avisha committed far too many errors in the fifth set to lose the match.

All smiles: Soham and Riana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rupam made a brief comeback as he cut down the errors to win the second set and matched his rival for major part of the third set
Soham managed to keep his nerve to win the closely contested third set at 13-11. The loss of the third set deflated Rupam as Soham easily won the fourth to win the match

The results: **(under-15)**:
Boys: Final: Soham Mukherjee (WB) bt Rupam Sardar (WB) 11-6, 8-11, 13-11, 11-5.
Semifinals: Soham bt Aditya Das (WB) 11-8, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7; Rupam bt Rajdip Sen (NCOE) 11-2, 11-8, 11-7.
Girls: Final: Riana Bhoota (Mah) bt Avisha Karmakar (Del) 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 9-11, 11-2; **semifinals**: Avisha bt Ahona Ray (WB) 9-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-9; Riana bt Divyanshi Bhowmick (Mah) 12-10, 7-11, 12-10, 11-5.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
A Government of India Undertaking
Together We Can

UNAUDITED (REVIEWED) FINANCIAL RESULTS (STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED) FOR THE QUARTER / HALF YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2023

Canara HOME LOAN 8.40% p.a. RATE OF INTEREST
Canara VEHICLE LOAN 8.70% p.a. RATE OF INTEREST

Global Business ₹21,56,181 Cr. Up by 10.12%
Gross Advances ₹9,23,966 Cr. Up by 12.11%
Net Interest Income ₹8,903 Cr. Up by 19.76%
Net Profit ₹3,606 Cr. Up by 42.81%
Operating Profit ₹7,616 Cr. Up by 10.30%
Return on Equity 22.51% Up by 514 bps
PCR 88.73% Up by 337 bps
CET-1 11.58% Up by 44 bps
Cost to Income 43.68% Down by 53 bps
Net NPA 1.41% Down by 78 bps
Y-o-Y

(₹ in Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		Quarter Ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2022 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations (net)	31,472.18	24,932.19	61,295.26	48,284.15	1,03,186.98	33,891.21	32,259.41	66,150.62	51,097.64	1,11,209.76
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5,007.63	3,268.67	9,892.72	6,184.85	14,173.00	5,218.30	3,462.95	10,316.62	6,545.60	14,873.61
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	5,007.63	3,268.67	9,892.72	6,184.85	14,173.00	5,218.30	3,462.95	10,316.62	6,545.60	14,873.61
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3,606.14	2,525.47	7,140.98	4,547.50	10,603.76	3,797.67	2,705.55	7,536.60	4,885.32	11,254.75
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2	Refer Note 2
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1,814.13	1,814.13	1,814.13	1,814.13	1,814.13	1,814.13	1,814.13	1,814.13	1,814.13	1,814.13
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)					64,318.01					68,750.39
8.	Securities Premium Account	13,919.01	13,919.01	13,919.01	13,919.01	13,919.01	13,983.85	13,983.85	13,983.85	13,983.85	13,983.85
9.	Net worth	67,479.91	55,765.87	67,479.91	55,765.87	60,195.34	72,198.71	59,976.27	72,198.71	59,976.27	64,556.51
10.	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	35,736.10	31,736.10	35,736.10	31,736.10	30,736.10					
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-					
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.53	0.57	0.53	0.57	0.51					
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (For continuing and discontinued operations)										
	1. Basic:	19.88	13.92	39.36	25.07	58.45	20.93	14.91	41.54	26.93	62.04
	2. Diluted:	19.88	13.92	39.36	25.07	58.45	20.93	14.91	41.54	26.93	62.04
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Note:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Half Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Half Yearly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website (BSE: www.bseindia.com and NSE: www.nseindia.com) and Bank's website (www.canarabank.com)
2. Information relating to Total Comprehensive Income and Other Comprehensive Income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to the Bank.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 26.10.2023

BHAVENDRA KUMAR, Executive Director
HARDEEP SINGH AHLUWALIA, Executive Director
ASHOK CHANDRA, Executive Director
DEBASHISH MUKHERJEE, Executive Director
K SATYANARAYANA RAJU, MD & CEO

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